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## King Fahd calls for cut in expenditure

RIYADH, Oct 18. (Reuters): King Fahd has called on his ministers to cut expenditure in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter which has been hit by falling oil prices.

"The king reiterated his directions to all ministers to double efforts and co-operation to rationalise expenditure and limit it to essentials," a cabinet statement said.

King Fahd also ordered the formation of a ministerial committee to evaluate government expenditure on industrial projects and their returns, said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

**Deficit**

Saudi Arabia, which has a projected 1988 budget deficit of \$9.6 billion, forecast last March its oil revenues would reach \$19.6 billion this year. But world prices have fallen in the past few weeks due to a glutted market.

Official figures then put government expenditure at \$37.7 billion in 1988.

Riyadh has repeatedly warned of the dangers of flooding markets with oil and expressed readiness to stick to its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 4.343 million barrels per day (BPD) if other members return to their assigned levels.

Industry sources say Saudi Arabia pumped 5.6 million BPD in the second week of October.

## US F-16 crashes in Turkey

INCIRLIK, Turkey, Oct 18. (Reuters): An US Air Force F-16 fighter crashed near the southern Turkish town of Ceyhan today and the pilot parachuted to safety, a US Air Force spokesman said.

The plane, flying from the US base at Incirlik near Adana, was on a routine training flight.

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## Arab News

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## Benazir rivals fail to form grand alliance

ISLAMABAD, Oct 18, (Reuter): Rivals of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto have failed to form a grand alliance against her in general elections next month, the official APP news agency said.

It said leaders of two alliances opposing Benazir's Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) decided yesterday after two days of talks to contest the Nov 16 polls separately.

But they would make "adjustments of (electoral) seats to avoid a direct clash between their candidates," it said.

The PPP is Pakistan's largest

opposition group. The talks took place in the Punjab province capital of Lahore after a decision on Friday by two quarrelling factions of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) to reunite to face the PPP in the polls.

"All the efforts to form a

greater political alliance of the two alliances had failed," APP said in a despatch yesterday.

The PML factions had joined two different alliances, and it was not immediately clear with which group the reunited PML had chosen to side.

## Polls find Bush ahead of Dukakis

WASHINGTON, Oct 18, (Reuter): Democrat Michael Dukakis, his support plummeting in opinion polls, stumped cities in Michigan today as part of a strategy to win key states rather than a nationwide sweep in next month's presidential election.

But his Republican rival Vice-President George Bush, wary of over-confidence despite projections of a possible landslide win, plans only a one-day respite in campaigning during the 20 days before the Nov 8 vote.

An NBC-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,378 likely voters released yesterday showed Bush with a 55-38 per cent lead, which would translate into 303 probable electoral votes against 105 for Dukakis.

In the indirect US system, the winner of the popular vote in a state takes all its electoral votes. A total of 270 electoral votes are needed for victory.

**Compared**

Other recent polls have shown Bush with a solid hold on more than 200 electoral votes compared with fewer than 100 for Dukakis.

Dukakis has opened his new offensive — aimed at 20 heavily populated states — in the Industrial Midwest where Ohio, Michigan and Illinois together have 67 electoral votes.

In Dayton, Ohio, he said yesterday: "The business of polls is really having a terrible effect. It's terrible."

He said: "I can only tell you that there are other polls saying very different things."

Dukakis targeted the economic problems of the three states, known as their heavy industries close, as "the rust belt."

He told factory workers in Dayton: "Every week, we lose

thousands of manufacturing jobs."

Dukakis said the trend would continue if Bush became president: "His record tells America's heartland 'let it rust.'

On the same day Bush toured a defense plant at Denver, Colorado, and promised military researchers he would press ahead as president with the controversial strategic defence initiative known as "Star Wars" and other strong defences.

### Balance

Bush, who has stated that he would balance the US budget by 1991 or 1992, said: "We do not need major increases in defence spending, nor can we afford major decreases."

Later the Republican candidate stood in a rainstorm in Skokie, Illinois, to tell Jewish voters: "I am committed to the survival of Israel. It has survived. It will survive."

The NBC-Wall Street Journal survey showed 18 states strongly favouring Bush with another 15 leaning towards him. Dukakis was strong in only six states with three leaning toward him.

Eight states with a possibly decisive 130 electoral votes, including California, Oregon and Washington, were considered too close to count for either candidate.

**Missile elimination**

TUCSON, Arizona, Oct 18, (Reuter): American technicians begin the laborious task of destroying 41 cruise missiles today, armed with saws normally used to pry trapped passengers from car wrecks.

An Air Force spokesman said it will take about 24 hours of continuous sawing to break up the missiles' their canisters and launchers at a desert Air Force base near Tucson.

This would be on condition that they agreed to halt the 11-month-old uprising for at least three to six weeks, he said.

Hilal said talk of a return to confederation with Jordan, at least until there was first an independent Palestinian state, was complete nonsense.

"There's no going back on an

## PLO will boycott Israeli-sponsored polls in Gaza and West Bank

TUNIS, Oct 18, (Reuter): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would boycott Israeli-sponsored municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a PLO spokesman said today.

Representatives from 42 of the 46 organisation members are in the Pakistani capital to sort through proposals directed at agricultural development and food security.

He noted that some Palestinian leaders have, however, left the option of confederation open if the peoples of Jordan and of an independent Palestine agreed on that later.

Hilal said a main aim of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting expected to take place in Algiers within two or three weeks was "to bury the Jordanian option" by declaring the independence of Palestinian state.

The leadership of the intifada (uprising) has demanded free elections under United Nations supervision after Israeli withdrawal. We would not take part in any elections held under occupation," Hilal told Reuters.

### Withdrawal

"The aim of the uprising is not to have elections, but to bring about Israeli withdrawal and an independent state. The intifada will continue until then and we will not lose sight of that aim," he added.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a news conference yesterday his Labour Party, if elected next month, would allow Palestinians in the occupied territories to elect local representatives for peace talks with Israel.

This would be on condition that they agreed to halt the 11-month-old uprising for at least three to six weeks, he said.

Hilal said talk of a return to confederation with Jordan, at least until there was first an independent Palestinian state, was complete nonsense.

PLO officials say that despite pressure from many states, the statement will not contain an explicit recognition of Israel.

## OIC meets to discuss ways to end hunger

ISLAMABAD, Oct 18, (AP): The Organisation of Islamic Conference, convened today for a three-day meeting to discuss ways to end hunger.

The anti-government Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) said today the three would test a government undertaking to rearm them.

The activists — Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Vally and Vusi Khanyile — appeared to be acting on the advice of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

### Squirrels battle

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 18, (Reuter): The South African government has hired a cast of cutely-dressed squirrels to go into battle against Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other black critics.

Countries within the Islamic conference, such as Sudan and Bangladesh, also have been hit hard by natural disasters such as drought and heavy flooding.

Pirzada said the Islamic conference should initiate regional stockpiling, which would be used to bail out countries hit by these natural disasters.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said 1988 has been a particularly bad year for organisations members. Floods have forced countries to import more cereal products as the international price of cereals has risen, he said.

Consequently, much of the foreign exchange required to pay off debts of the international money market and finance internal development projects is being diverted.

Ishaq Khan suggested that organisations members stop exporting raw materials and instead establish agricultural manufacturing industries.

"Exporting raw materials is not profitable," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Escaped detainees

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 18, (Reuter): Three black anti-apartheid activists who fled from detention to the US consulate in Johannesburg last month will leave the missio tomorrow, supporters said in a statement.

The anti-government Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) said today the three would test a government undertaking to rearm them.

The activists — Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Vally and Vusi Khanyile — appeared to be acting on the advice of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

### Disasters

Protectionist policies are taking hold in the developing world while the poor continue to huddle under the weight of "high export hills and crippling debt burdens," he said.

Countries within the Islamic conference, such as Sudan and Bangladesh, also have been hit hard by natural disasters such as drought and heavy flooding.

Pirzada said the Islamic conference should initiate regional stockpiling, which would be used to bail out countries hit by these natural disasters.

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Ishaq Khan suggested that organisations members stop exporting raw materials and instead establish agricultural manufacturing industries.

"Exporting raw materials is not profitable," he said.

### President warns

BELGRADE, Oct 18, (AP): Yugoslavia's President warned today of "great danger" for the country if communist leaders continued arguing over economic and ethnic unrest in the worst crisis since World War II.

But leaders from the country's two largest republics clashed openly as a meeting of the Communist Party's central committee entered its second day in the face of weeks of protests.

The country's economic problems include 217 per cent inflation, 15 per cent unemployment and a \$21-billion foreign debt, spawning protests by impoverished workers.

### Holst in Amman

AMMAN, Oct 18, (Reuter): Norwegian Defence Minister Jan Stenberg Holst arrived in Amman today and held talks with Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai on bilateral co-operation, the state-run news agency Petra said.

It gave few details but said Holst was in Jordan as part of a Middle East tour to inspect Norway's nearly 1,000 soldiers stationed with UN peacekeeping forces in the region.

Holst arrived from Baghdad. Norway has some 15 soldiers with the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNITMOG) monitoring the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

### Queen addresses

MADRID, Oct 18, (AP): Queen Elizabeth II paid homage to Spanish war dead, addressed Parliament and accepted the keys to the capital today during a busy second day of her five-day visit to Spain, the first ever by a reigning British monarch.

The Queen told a joint session of Parliament the two countries would play important roles in the future development of Europe and praised Spain for 10 years of democracy following nearly four decades under the authoritarian regime of Gen. Francisco Franco.

### Iran acquires new weapon: Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, Oct 18, (Reuter): Iranian military supreme Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today Iran had acquired a new weapon to discourage Iraq from attacking its cities.

A new device has recently fallen into our hands. We hope the enemy will not fancy starting the war of the cities again considering that we have what we have that device, he told Tehran Radio.

Rafsanjani did not say what the weapon was or how Iran had acquired it.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said last March that Iran may have used Soviet-built rockets obtained through Libya to attack Iraq.

Rafsanjani interviewed after a two-day tour of two western provinces near the Iraqi border, said he found during his visit that the military forces had used the calm on the battle fronts for training and stocking war material.

"We are now neither at war nor at peace ... there is the possibility of war flaring up again," he said. "We shouldn't forget that the enemy may still have the same incentives, but it will not accept the danger of restarting the war easily."

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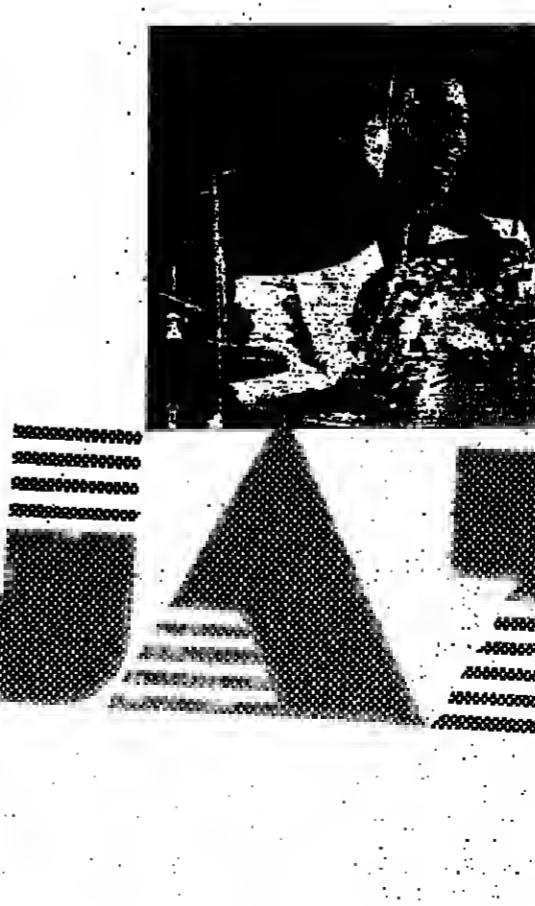
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## INTERNATIONAL

**Blind S. Koreans protest to save jobs**

SEOUL, Oct 18. (Agencies): About 350 blind South Korean masseurs and their relatives blocked traffic in a sit-down protest in central Seoul today against a new law they say threatens their jobs.

The demonstration was called after the health minister said he would approve legislation allowing herbal doctors and acupuncturists to use massage in their treatment.

Massage has traditionally been a monopoly of the blind in South Korea.

"The government is robbing us of our sole livelihood. This is bow the host country of the Paralympics treats its disabled," a spokesman said.

Seoul, which hosted the Olympic Games last month, is currently staging the world sports festival for the disabled, attended by some 3,200 athletes from 50 countries.

"If the law is passed, it will be like asking a blind athlete to compete with a seeing athlete," said one protester. "Who do you think will win?"

The crowd dispersed after a few minor scuffles with police, who stopped them marching to the Health Ministry. A spokesman said the group would try again on Wednesday.

"We don't want to disrupt the Paralympics," he said. "But this is the perfect opportunity to show that the disabled are still neglected here."

Today was the third day of the 8th International Paralympic Games for the disabled, and organisers said they hoped the timing of the demonstration would call attention to their plight.

The 300 protesters clapped, chanted "don't take our jobs" and other slogans from sheets printed in braille, and sat and squatted on the street with their arms around each other.



Blind men and women march through a Seoul street. (Reuters wirephoto)

**US reviewing ties with North Korea**

WASHINGTON, Oct 18. (AP): The United States is reviewing its policy towards North Korea with a view to a possible thaw in relations, US officials said.

The policy review will be discussed at the White House on Thursday between President Ronald Reagan and visiting South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo, said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

The reassessment grew out of recent talks between the North and the South, which have been estranged since the mid-1940s, and by the Pyongyang government's restraint during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul last month, Redman said.

The United States had warned North Korea against disrupting the Olympics, which Pyongyang sought to host jointly with the South. North Korea viewed the Games as granting international recognition to its arch rival.

Relations between Washington

and Pyongyang have vacillated between complete cut-offs to limited links, depending on North Korean behaviour.

For example, in the spring of 1987, the United States authorised limited contacts between its officials and North Korean representatives, as well as easing some restrictions on visas for North Koreans.

**Explosion**

But these concessions were revoked following allegations the North was to blame for the explosion of a South Korean airliner late last year in which all 115 people on board were killed.

Redman declined to predict whether the US review would result in improved relations, saying only "no decisions have been made."

But another official, who declined to be named, said improved ties would be the logical direction of such a review since "relations couldn't get any worse than they are."

**Move to topple military regime****Burmese rebels form alliance**

MANERPLAW, Burma, Oct 18. (UPI): Burmese rebel leaders said today they have reached an agreement on a broad alliance bringing together dissident students, ethnic insurgents and communist guerrillas for the first time in hopes of toppling the military government.

The rebel leaders from the 10-member National Democratic Front also mapped out strategy for launching co-ordinated military attacks designed to keep the Burmese Army off balance.

"All opposition groups must unite to fight this regime," and Saw Morey, chairman of the 12-year-old National Democratic Front.

"Only if we are united can we overthrow the military regime," he said.

Saw Morey and the leaders of the 10 different groups have been meeting in Rangoon.

About 8,000 of the students

have fled to the jungle headquarters of various rebel groups.

Also to be included in the new alliance is an exiled organisation associated with former Prime Minister U Ne, who was ousted in a 1962 military coup, and possibly opposition parties now active in Burma.

"This will be the first time all the anti-government forces get together," Saw Morey said. "Now the situation has changed so we can all co-operate and step up our struggle."

The Karen leader said the recent Army crackdown, on districts that left more than 1,000 people dead has shown the world how brutal and unpopular the military government is.

The rebel leader said the alliance eventually could lead to the establishment of a provisional government that could compete with the Rangoon regime for international recognition.

Also to be included are the dissident students who led two months of demonstrations against the authoritarian regime in Rangoon.

About 8,000 of the students

**Six civilians killed in Sri Lanka violence**

COLOMBO, Oct 18. (AP): Unidentified gunmen wearing military-style uniforms have killed six people in eastern Sri Lanka, an Army spokesman said today.

The official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said four Tamils and two Sinhalese men were shot and stabbed late last night in the village of Seyiliyamadu, about 250 kilometres east of Colombo, the island's capital.

**Campaign**

The official said the slayings could have been done by either militant Tamils fighting for a separate nation in the northeastern province or by extremists Sinhalese opposed to the government's peace overtures to the Tamil rebels.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, comprise 18 per cent of the island's 16 million people. Militant Tamils have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland in the northeast.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Ranasinghe Premadasa on Monday began his campaign for December's presidential elections with a visit to a Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy followed by a public meeting, residents said.

They said, in telephone interviews, that Premadasa, the presidential candidate of the ruling United National Party, called for an end to the ethnic strife on the island which has claimed at least 8,500 lives in the past five years.

The paper said rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) hit the aircraft Monday while it was landing at the airport of Juba, the main southern Sudanese town, 1,200 km south of Khartoum. It said the pilot managed to take the aircraft back again and return to the capital.

There was no immediate comment from the Sudanese authorities.

In a similar incident in early September, the SPLA shot at a privately-owned Boeing 707 flying more than 100 passengers and several tons of relief food into Juba.

The pilot of the Boeing managed to put it down safely.

The rebels have in the past repeatedly warned they would down any aircraft flying over the "warzone" of Southern Sudan.

In August 1986 they carried out their threat and downed a Sudan Airways airliner with a Sam missile, killing all 60 passengers and crew.

Relief workers say the threats have hampered efforts to deliver food to famine-wracked Southern Sudan.

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**Israel bans Last Temptation of Christ**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct 18. (UPI): Israeli film censors have banned distribution of the controversial movie "The Last Temptation of Christ" saying it would offend Christians in the holy land and violate Israeli law.

"It's not that the film deals with some small aspects of Christianity," said Joshua Justmao, chairman of the Israeli Film Censorship Board. "What is in the film deals with the very fundamental tenets of the Christian faith. This is no small matter."

The board voted 21-3 with two abstentions in prohibiting the distribution of "The Last Temptation of Christ," the controversial film by American director Martin Scorsese that has provoked outrage worldwide for its portrayal of Jesus.

The agreement reaffirms the enduring bilateral relationship between our respective countries and allows us to proceed to improve other aspects in that relationship," Aquino said in a statement.

The presidential palace did not comment on the agreement until more than 12 hours after it was signed.

Earlier, Aquino's spokesman, Teodoro Benigno, said the president could not comment because she had not seen a signed copy of the agreement and did not "have a full grasp of what transpired" in Washington.

**Critics call for closing US bases****Aquino defends accord**

MANILA, Oct 18. (AP): President Corazon Aquino said today a new agreement on US military bases reaffirms "the enduring bilateral relationship" with Washington, but newspapers accused her government of a sellout by accepting far less than was demanded.

Critics warned the pact, signed on Monday in Washington by US Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, will strengthen calls for closing the installations in 1991.

"The agreement reaffirms the enduring bilateral relationship between our respective countries and allows us to proceed to improve other aspects in that relationship," Aquino said in a statement.

The presidential palace did not comment on the agreement until more than 12 hours after it was signed.

Earlier, Aquino's spokesman, Teodoro Benigno, said the president could not comment because she had not seen a signed copy of the agreement and did not "have a full grasp of what transpired" in Washington.

He has sold out his country and grossly deceived its people," the national newspaper Malaya said of Manglapus. "For these treasonous acts, he ought never to show his face again in Manila."

A banner headline on Tuesday of the People's Journal tonight said: "Bases deal disappointing." Cartoons in other dailies pictured Manglapus dancing with Shultz and a Filipino negotiator with a sack over his head next to a figure of Uncle Sam.

"Filipinos have good cause to believe that once more they have been suckered into a deal they knew little about," the Philippine daily Globe said.

The often contentious talks began on April 5. They broke off on July over differences in compensation but resumed one week

United States to use Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller garrisons through 1991 in return for \$362 million in American aid. The Philippines initially demanded \$1.2 billion a year for the final two years of the bases agreement.

Later, during the talks, Filipino officials leaked a steady stream of statements to reporters indicating that Manila would stand fast on its compensation demands.

**Opposition**

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defense Committee, said the agreement showed the government "not ready yet to stand up to the Americans."

The Philippines constitution states that after 1991, any extension of the leases must be under a bilateral treaty ratified by two-thirds of the Philippine senate, where opposition to the installation is strong.

Former defense minister and critic of Aquino, Juan Ponce Enrile, said the senate would have to examine the provisions carefully.

"If such violation exists, that would be a slap to the Senate, considering that we have already approved a bill enforcing the nuclear provision of the constitution," he said.

Defense Minister Fidel Ramos implied that it was the best deal the Philippines could get after six months of tortuous negotiations. "We just have to make the best of what is available," he told reporters after addressing a seminar.

"There is never really enough. Is there?"

**US President must visit South Asia**

WASHINGTON, Oct 18. (AP): The next American President should visit India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries early in his term, says an official of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative policy organization.

It has been a decade since President Jimmy Carter's visit to India, and the growing importance of the subcontinent makes it vital to US interests that the next President go at least to India and Pakistan, said Kenneth Conboy of the private foundation's Asian studies centre. Top US officials should also visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, headed.

Although President Ronald Reagan visited neither India nor Pakistan, Conboy credited his administration with a "successful balancing act" of even-handed treatment of the two rivals and more attention to the region than previous US administrations.

US policy should seek further improvement of ties with India, "which has a middle class of consumers larger than the population of any European country," he said. The United States also should "build ties with the Indian armed forces and the growing Indian defense industry, which would increase America's leverage through technological dependence," Conboy added.

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**Rebels shoot at Sudanese airliner**

KHARTOUM, Oct 18. (UPI): Sudanese rebels shot at a Sudan Airways cargo plane, the second such attack in two months, Khartoum's independent Al Isbu daily said today.

The attack took place 640 km southeast of the town of Abyei, where small aircraft are delivering emergency supplies in a US Agency for International Development-sponsored airlift.

The paper said rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) hit the aircraft Monday while it was landing at the airport of Juba, the main southern Sudanese town, 1,200 km south of Khartoum. It said the pilot managed to take the aircraft back again and return to the capital.

The paper said rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) hit the aircraft Monday while it was landing at the airport of Juba, the main southern Sudanese town, 1,200 km south of Khartoum. It said the pilot managed to take the aircraft back again and return to the capital.

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# Commander says US 'did it right' in Gulf

MANAMA, Oct 18, (AP): The United States has gained unprecedented credibility with Arab leaders as a result of its large-scale naval commitment in the Arabian Gulf, says the general who runs US military operations in the strategic oil waterway.

"This may be the first successful military application of a political objective that we've pulled off, perhaps, since Korea," said Gen. George B. Crist, referring to the US role in saving South Korea from a North Korean communist takeover in the early 1950s.

The old thing about the military being an extension of the political ... well, we did it right this time."

The four-star Marine Corps officer, who retires next month as commander of US Central Command, is ending a farewell swing through the Middle East. In an interview aboard the US Navy's Gulf flagship, USS La Salle, based at Bahrain, he said:

— The United States has its strongest-ever relations with Arab states, who originally expected Washington to "cut and run" rather than become deeply involved in trying to forestall Iranian military moves in the Gulf.

— the Soviet Union, whose effort to establish a presence in the Gulf helped to spur the US decision, has recently bolstered its fleet and is "not showing any signs of withdrawal."

— The United States will continue to "ratchet down" its naval force if the Aug 20 Iraq-Iran ceasefire holds, but Kuwait will decide when to remove the Stars and Stripes from 11 oil tankers reflagged by the Reagan administration 17 months ago as

protection from Iranian attack.

Crist, 57, has been both a diplomat and a military officer during his three-year tenure at the Tampa, Florida-based Central Command, which began as a one-time "ready reaction force" and now administers US military affairs in 19 countries from North Africa to Pakistan.

This encompasses the Gulf, where danger to shipping from the eight-year Iraq-Iran war prompted last year's massive naval buildup by the United States and five European governments.

Crist said that commitment has enabled Washington to establish better diplomatic and "closer co-operation and co-ordination" militarily with Gulf Arab governments than ever before.

"We've moved mountains," he said. "They were absolutely convinced we were going to cut and run. We didn't." He added, in a parting comment without elaboration, "it was a near thing, though."

Most Arab states are officially cool toward the United States because of its pro-Israel stance, and rarely praise US policy. But Crist said Washington has managed to win new friends in the Gulf.

## Mines

"They don't want the Russians in. They like the Americans. We're not colonial, we're not overbearing," he said. In working with Americans, he added, "They've gained a lot more confidence in their own capabilities that they didn't have before."

Crist said the mine threat is especially serious in the northern Gulf, where both belligerents

sowed mines. Other US officers have said there may be as many as 200 left.

Six US minesweepers were "probably the last capability" he would remove, Crist said, adding that with some European Navies already withdrawing theirs, "the big question" is whether the United States will wind up with the mine-clearing task.

However, that and many other crucial decisions on a US drawdown may fall to Army Lt. Gen. R. Norman Schwarzkopf, scheduled to succeed Crist command on Nov 23.

Mushroomed

When the reflagged convoys began, the Navy's Gulf-based Middle East Force included only the La Salle and four combatants. As the "tanker war" escalated, the US regional fleet mushroomed to as many as 40 ships. There currently are 26, including 10 in the Gulf.

Crist said the United States would never leave the Gulf entirely.

"We've been here since 1949, and as long as the Russians stay around, I don't think we're going to turn the keys to the storeroom over," he said.

He said the Soviets still keep seven to nine ships in the area and "are not showing any signs of withdrawal."

Indeed, he said Moscow recently signalled its apparent intention to maintain a large presence by deploying the 11,000-ton hospital ship OB, fitted as a floating rest centre for Soviet sailors.

Although the Navy recently ended close escort, Crist said the ships will have "traditional protection" as long as Kuwait complies with US maritime and tax laws.

# Sultan Qaboos discusses Oman's policy during war

WASHINGTON, Oct 18, (KUNA): Sultan Qaboos of Oman said today that during the Iran-Iraq war "our strategy was to pour water on the fire, to calm things down."

In an interview with the Washington Times, Sultan Qaboos added, "We were trying to get the fire to die down and not spread. That was our strategy; to cool things down from a position of trying to help on both sides."

## Preserve

The Sultanate abhors the Strait of Hormuz, with dramatic, soaring cliffs to the west. According to the sultan: "Being on one side of the sensitive waterway — being a partner, so to speak, with Iran — we had to be very careful. It was a very delicate thing to do. To find a way always so that the

Strait of Hormuz was not blocked.

"We kept on talking to the Iranians, obviously to try to help them find a way to end the war," he said, "but because the Iraqis said for some time they would like to stop the war. In our talks with the Iranians, we were trying to find a way... telling them not to isolate themselves from the rest of the world — this was our nightmare."

As to relations with the United States, he only said, "We have a good, normal relationship."

Discussing a possible peace treaty between Iraq and Iran, he said only, "Maybe it will take some time to get a real agreement ... but we should not be suspicious of the time, we should be patient and encourage them to reach a real agreement at the end of negotiations."

## Contained

Asked about the American Naval forces' mission in the Arabian Gulf, he said, "Their presence there, as it was announced, was to preserve the peace and protect the shipping in the Gulf. I think to a certain extent that task was accomplished. Now, there will be no reason for the superpowers to remain in the

Gulf in the strength they have had during the war. And they said so."

"We viewed the peace task of the Western navies... sympathetically and gave some advice," he said. "We said that this is good but that it should not get out of hand. They should not get involved in the war itself. Looking at it, things were contained. Things did not get out of hand — this was our nightmare."

As to relations with the United States, he only said, "We have a good, normal relationship."

Discussing a possible peace

treaty between Iraq and Iran, he said only, "Maybe it will take

some time to get a real agreement ... but we should not be suspicious of the time, we should be patient and encourage them to reach a real agreement at the end of negotiations."

He said that after the Geneva accord was signed in April 1987, people generally started thinking that the Afghan crisis was solved. "This is not only affecting us, but also the Afghan mujahideen and the

refugees," Wasti explained.

Wasti said the Afghan Agency

Press recently published a book entitled "Afghanistan: A Chronology of Events." The work, he said, covers from April 1978 to December 1983 and records the events preceding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It also lists in the form of a journal the main incidents of the ensuing war.

Wasti said his agency has close contacts with most of the Afghan mujahideen groups, both inside and outside Afghanistan, and hence its information sources are both "accurate and reliable."

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## VIDEO CORNER

**Moving story of Campbell's zest for speed**

By Gail Seery

I HAVE not been able to avoid noticing that it is now nearly compulsory to start a film with a shot of a nice car burning along roads. In this case it's a mid-60s E-Type Jag, driven by Anthony Hopkins in his role as the late Duncan Campbell in *Across the Lake*. However, this is one of those rare flings when it is acceptable, as the film tells the story of the last few months of Campbell's life, when he was attempting to break the world water speed record on Lake Windermere in 1966/67. He had wanted to be a fighter pilot, but had rheumatic fever, and ended up having to satisfy his zest for speed some other way. Hence the E-Type Jag and more importantly, Bluebird.

As soon as we are told that

By Brian Hollis

MANY video huffs in Kuwait regularly complain that so many films are on the blacklist that their choice is very restricted. In fact this is not so — the only serious film producer on the blacklist is Paramount, and most of the blacklisted actors and directors are well past their peak. To prove a point, 17 of the top twenty best video renters in the USA at present are available in Kuwait, including a new one from Tom Berenger, star of *Platoon*. In *Someone To Watch Over Me* Berenger plays an ordinary cop from New York's Queens district, who is promoted to detective. As a first job he is assigned to babysit a rich socialite (Claire) who has witnessed the murder of a friend, and is required to testify against the killer, who is still at large. At a cocktail party Claire is cornered by the murderer, who promises to kill her if she testifies against him. He then surrenders to the authorities. Berenger persuades Claire to do her duty and identify him nevertheless, and this she does, only to find that he is released the same day on a technicality — Berenger forgot to caution him when making the arrest. With Claire's life more in danger than ever, Berenger is becoming more and more attracted to her as well as guilty about her plight. Meanwhile,

Anthony Hopkins takes the lead, we know that this will be a fairly heavy film. It is also deeply moving, despite the music. Hopkins is a very gifted actor. Even his most basic movements are invested with meaning. He manages to convey the fact that he's returning to a special place so easily — by gazing at a photograph, by picking up a glass. He effortlessly slots into the role and stays there. This is a rare ability in modern films, when it is often more important who the actor is, than what the story is about.

For the viewer, Hopkins & Duncan Campbell.

He has lost the world record, and is desperately trying to win it back, with an ever attendant press circus, and a circle of devoted retainers. He is dismissed as a failure by many, others

are frightened for him, but fundamentally, the only thing which motivates him is his thirst for speed, and for pushing Bluebird beyond the 300MPH mark.

However, the boat can only perform well in totally calm conditions, and a number of trials get nowhere due to mechanical problems. Even so they soldier on, but Campbell becomes more and more isolated and alone. He is not a young man anymore, and frequently suffers from severe back pains. His wife is a singer, and she leaves him because she is terrified at what will happen to him when he attempts the record.

Even if history had not already supplied the answer, the viewer could be in no doubt that Campbell will die in the film. From the moment the film opens with its dull drizzle and cold, there is an undertone of sadness, which, as the film progresses, becomes increasingly ominous. Campbell is a suspicious man, and various premonitions tell him that he will die. Nevertheless he is determined. As Connie, the hotel landlady in the film tells a hostile reporter: "If he's so scared and he still goes on and does it, that's true courage."

He was doing well over 300 MPH when the boat flipped and disintegrated, a sad, but according to the film, inevitable end. Campbell was portrayed honestly as a proud man, in severe financial difficulties, and living on credit. He is portrayed as a cool-hearted womaniser, who says at last, "Women always talk about love, but I

can honestly say that I don't know the meaning of the word." He is a selfish man, full of inherent self-contradictions, but Hopkins makes him totally real, and even, at times, a sympathetic character.

My only criticism of the film is that, the music frequently gets a little too much to bear, and I couldn't help musing that Campbell might have survived the attempt had someone in his support crew had the sense to shoot the orchestra, or at least the strings section.

Every time he takes the boat out this music starts. Now I have been around powerboats long enough to know that string orchestras and speed don't automatically go together. When he drives along the road, the music starts again. No wonder he gets depressed.

As time goes on, he becomes more and more isolated, and finally confronts his husband. His decision is made more difficult by the reappearance of the killer out to eliminate the witness. Someone To Watch Over Me is as much a romantic drama as a thriller, with the forced togetherness of the rich socialite and down-to-earth cop as a clever plot device which keeps the plot boiling.

If George A. Romero is not very well known as a director in Kuwait, it is because most of his films are on the blacklist. Romero directs exclusively horror movies of which the most famous are the banned *Night of the Living Dead* and *Zombies*. When I started watching *Monkey Shines*, therefore, I was surprised to see that he was directing a film about teaching monkeys how to help paraplegics. As the film developed, however, it was apparent that something more sinister was happening. The monkey in question had become totally faithful to the paralysed and wheelchair-bound patient. He, meanwhile, was getting very upset about his ex-girlfriend, who was now going out with his doctor, and the intelligent monkey soon takes the hint. If you ever watched *Benji* or *Willard*, you will

know what to expect. The film is a rather unusual suspense, which builds well after a slow start, and except for the very end, is quite plausible.

Intrigue is a new spy thriller starring Scott Glenn as a CIA operative sent to the East bloc to bring out an American who previously defected, but now wants to return to the West. The American apparently has some vital information which could affect the arms limitation talks in Geneva. When Glenn finds the KGB hot on his trail after he has successfully escorted his prize as far as Venice, he begins to get suspicious, and when his own people tell him to get rid of his charge, he determines to find out what the information can be. There are various subplots involving beautiful female spies, and the scenery of Yugoslavia and Venice makes a pleasant change from New York and L.A.

Lady in White is an appealing ghost story with a difference. A young teenager is locked in a country school cloakroom as a prank on Halloween and, dozing off, witnesses the murder of a young girl. Later on a man enters the room, and tries to murder the boy, but luckily he arrives in the nick of time.

American bestsellers are, in short, supply at the moment.

Theatre, Jabiya: British pianist David McArthur will give a recital as part of his third Messilah Beach Tour. For details contact 2469248/2441746/240-2287.

## SOCIAL

Kuwait Caledonians

OCT 19: 7.30 pm. Caledonians hold their annual general meeting at the Messilah Beach Hotel; business meeting only. Saint Andrews night will be on November 24 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details, telephone 5335082, or 3727691 ext 253.

Cova Nite

OCT 27: 8.30 pm, Messilah Beach Hotel: Cova Nite with music by the Top Ranks. For details phone 2434776; 2413884; 4310913; 5629141 (after 5 pm)

## SPORTS

BP 2000 Trophy Rally  
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## CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus  
Mines of Kilimanjaro  
Starring: Christopher Connelly, Elaine Jones  
Al Hamra  
Arab Sawabiq (Arabic)  
Starring: Samir Ghanem, Dalal Abdul Aziz  
Drive-In  
Ightial Madrasah (Arabic)  
Starring: Nahila Obid, Sabreen, Hisham Salim, Salah Qabil  
Al Firdous  
Kanwarjal (Hindi)  
Starring: Jeetendra, Sujata Mehta  
Fahabeel Open-Air  
Aaj Ke Angarey (Hindi)  
Starring: Hemant Birje, Archana Puran Singh  
Al Fahabeel  
Nabar Al Khafif (Arabic)

## PRAYERS

Fajr 4.33 am  
Zuhr 11.33  
Asr 2.48 pm  
Maghreb 5.14  
Isha 6.31

## BRUNCHI

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## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arhaan Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum

SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Saudi House

SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rug, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

## THEATRE

IAC OCT 22: 7.30 pm. IAC. Features: The Indian community will present a one-act comedy. Nazuk Sawari, to celebrate Dusehra. The play will be followed by dinner. Open for members and their guests. For details phone 390-1817.

Bengali Play OCT 27/28: 6.30 pm. Mousetrap Theatre, The Moucharak Group, Bangladeshi theatre company, presents "Bullay Purer Rupkatha, a fairy tale. For reservations phone A. Karim 2637643; Dr. Hyder 5625456; Heron 4893424. KLT OCT 31 - NOV 3: KLT's comedy. Two and Two Make Six, directed by Steve Prescott. Gala show with dinner at 8 pm on Oct 31. Subsequent shows at

## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait Al Hajeri Pharmacy

Hajeri Bldg., Hilal St.  
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy

Souk Al Kuwait Bldg., Souk Duaij

Hawalli and Nogra

Al Hawalli Pharmacy

Tunis St.

Salmiya and Rumaihiya

Ibn Nafis Pharmacy

# ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

ONLY parents' love can last our lives — Robert Browning, English poet (1812-1889).

## OPINION

### Tehran's positive decisions make one feel comfortable

IMPORTANT positive indications have recently come out of Iran, including the Rafsanjani "oil" statement and the statement of the Iranian foreign minister about King Fahd's call during the conference of the OIC information ministers last week in Jeddah.

These are really positive signs. Iran wants to restore ties with Saudi Arabia and to co-operate with the Gulf states to prevent any collapse in the oil prices.

Such wise signs make one feel comfortable about the fact that the Iranian leadership is now looking more united and strong in its decisions. This is what Iran lacked in the past and what the states in the region needed. After all, Iran is a neighbouring country, and no one can change this geographic fact. Besides, this region is rich in its resources and can have huge returns if funds are invested in the best way to benefit the people of the regions.

Such positive indications carried by the media in Iran and from its leadership have created the atmosphere that the region has been looking for.

We are now looking for a quick end to the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations. We hope that the negotiations achieve a lasting peace and restore bridges of co-operation between the countries of this region.

In the same way we look to Iran as a neighbouring country with which we can co-operate, we also feel that the Iranian people and their leadership are willing to re-establish the old links, particularly with the Iraqi people, who always kept their country's border open to Iranians.

The statements by Rafsanjani about the oil issue and other statements about King Fahd and the initiative by other Iranian officials indicate relaxation in the Iran-Gulf relations. We praise and encourage such positive signs to reflect on the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

It should be realised that all want stability for Iran, and want Iran to continue to enjoy the political leadership that acknowledges that international relations have basis and traditions that must be respected to avoid isolation.

We have to co-operate with this world to prevent our interests from being used and exploited by it.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

### Despite the warplanes

### A sense of quiet prevails in Kabul

By Earleen Fisher

KABUL, (AP): In the hustling markets that line the dusty, winding alleys and the dried up Kuhul river, war seems far away until one looks up at the clear, sunny sky.

Then the machines of war are visible: helicopters inside the perimeter of mountains whose ridges are lined with radar installations and hokey little outposts of Afghan and Soviet armed forces; attack jets, and big military transport planes dropping flares designed to divert heat-seeking missiles.

The guerrillas banting the Soviet troops and the forces of Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government are in the mountains, just beyond the ridges that surround Kabul.

Most days at least a few rockets are launched at the capital, usually landing at random on homes, streets and sometimes in or near a military installation.

#### Bunker

"We don't know when or where they will come," said a young civil servant who recently returned from Russian and English studies in the Soviet Union. "They can kill you. They can kill someone else."

Five people died Oct 10 in one of the most recent rocket attacks on the capital.

Soviet and Afghan troops man concrete bunker checkpoints on the outskirts of the city, and there are Afghan checkpoints scattered closer to the centre.

But there's little feeling of imminent disaster in the marketplaces where men in brown robes and white turbans sit cross-legged on the ground.

In front of them are piles of purplish-black onions, ripe red tomatoes, and big, ohlong melons that are yellow and wrinkled on the outside but sweet, white and juicy on the inside.

A one-legged man on crutches sells gaudily coloured ski-pant-style long underwear in a anticipation of winter in this city, where nighttime temperatures are already nippy.

A Kahul University student wheels his bicycle along the pot-holed lanes, his 7-year-old daughter seated on the crossbar.

### The new generation is more pragmatic

## Young Israeli politicians shed pioneer mystique

By Allan Fisher

TEL AVIV, Israel. (AP): Clad in pin-striped shirts and boasting an array of academic degrees, Israel's new "yuppie" politicians have traded the rough-and-tumble Moshe Dayan style for a more image-conscious Western approach.

The new generation running in the Nov. 1 elections has a varied background. It includes sons of leaders and lawyers, as well as offspring of North African immigrants from poor backgrounds.

Among them are men with well-known names like Benjamin Begin, the son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and lesser known figures like Yossi Beilin, who gained experience as an aide to Labour Party leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The next-in-line leaders in both parties share several traits: for one, they are more pragmatic than their ideology-bound predecessors about Israel's biggest problem: the Palestine issue.

They have also parted with the North American manners and casual, open-shirt dress of the first-gener-

ation Israeli politician.

"We don't kiss a lady's hand like our mentors did," said Roni Milo, 39, a rising star with the right-wing Likud Bloc, alluding to the sometimes courtly behaviour of the Polish-born Begin, founder of the Likud.

#### Pragmatic

Milo is a Sahra, or Israeli-born Jew, and he said "we're more direct, Sabra style, and more pragmatic."

"We young people are more capable of growing accustomed to new conditions," Milo added, flashing a boyish smile in an interview at Likud's 14-story headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Milo's background is typical of many politicians his age of European descent. A lawyer who began climbing the party ranks in student government at Tel Aviv University, he inherited hawkish political beliefs from parents who fought the British in Begin's Irgun underground.

His career flourished after he won a seat in parliament in 1977 with a Likud victory in national elections.

A second young Likud deputy with leadership potential is Ehud Olmert, 42, also a lawyer who

despite his hard line on the Arab-Israeli conflict, has held a series of quiet meetings with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"We are the ones pushing things forward. We have a more pragmatic approach," Olmert said of himself and his generation in Likud: "Yes, we're against the PLO, but we know we have to strike an agreement with the Palestinians."

#### Leader

Benjamin "Benny" Begin, son of the former right-wing prime minister, also is a likely new leader in the Likud. But he insists he can't be expected to fill his father's shoes. "People like him are born very rarely," he said.

Unlike the young politicians in Likud, most of the dozen or so new faces in the ranks of the rival Labour Party will be taking a seat in parliament for their first time after next month's vote.

But although they lack legislative experience, some of the newcomers already have considerable influence.

Beilin, 40, is a former cabinet secretary with a doctorate in political science who became an adviser to Peres a decade ago and

has helped him shape his foreign policy.

Despite his clean-cut appearance, the mild-mannered, bespectacled Beilin exhibits traits reminiscent of a 1960s American peace activist.

His office wall is decked with posters denouncing apartheid in South Africa, a remnant of his push last year for the cabinet's decision to curtail commercial and military ties with Pretoria.

Beilin is also decidedly more moderate than Peres toward the Palestinians, saying: "I am willing to speak to the PLO provided that it meets conditions" of recognising Israel and formally declaring a ban on terrorism.

Israel's government objects to any dialogue with the PLO.

Another fresh face in Labour, Avraham Burg, 33, is the son of Yosef Burg, who was religious affairs minister and the longest-serving member of Israel's Knesset, or parliament, until he retired last year.

The younger Burg, also a former adviser to Peres, insists his father had nothing to do with his decision to enter politics. Instead, it was opposition to Israel's three-year war in Lebanon that

got him interested.

Though injured in parachute training in 1979, Burg fought voluntarily with his unit in Lebanon in 1982, then became an leading opponent of Israel's Lebanon conflict.

"The war completely changed my plans. It was wrong. It was a turning point for me," Burg said, munching a carrot. "I never thought before of being a politician."

#### Plans

"But then I thought, 'we are a society undergoing many processes, some of them difficult, incorrect, fatal. Either you bury your head deep in the sand or you try to do something.'"

Burg, the spokesman for Labour's campaign, is religiously observant like his father. He says resolving the Palestinian uprising in the disputed West Bank and Gaza Strip is one of Israel's main necessities.

"The occupation corrupts us. This is a tough process the Israeli population is going through. The main moral issue is ending the occupation and finding a solution."

The other pattern of developing leadership in Labour and

Likud is comprised of the small-town mayors, mostly of Sephardi origin, who now have prominent places on both parties' slates.

Moroccan-born Eli Dayan, 38, the mayor of Ashkelon, is an example from Labour.

Dayan, who is not related to the late Israeli war hero, told reporters recently that he saw his achievement as boost to the nation's disadvantaged development towns that are home mostly to Middle Eastern or North African Jews.

"At one time these parties were closed to the people from these towns," he said. "Now we can be candidates for the Knesset."

Some Israeli analysts are critical of the new generation politicians, believing them willing to compromise and lacking in the ideological vision of the country's founders.

"They're all the same, whether in Labour or Likud, yuppies and opportunists," said Gahi Shefer, a political scientist a Hebrew University in the occupied Jerusalem. "They're the product of growing materialism in Israeli society, they reflect the less idealistic society we have become."

### WAYS TO ENJOY ELECTION '88



### First place in the US to vote in the presidential election

By Graham Earnshaw

DIXVILLE NOTCH, New Hampshire. (Reuters): It began as a publicity stunt and that is what it remains. But every four years, it puts this New England hamlet in the headlines.

Once again, Dixville Notch will be the first place in the country to vote in the US presidential poll on Nov. 8.

Its 30 registered voters collude with journalists to create a media event of the day.

Starting in 1960, they have gathered on each presidential election day in the "ballot room" at the local resort hotel and at one minute after midnight cast their votes.

The press looks on, outnumbering voters three-to-one, ready to run for the telephones as soon as the count is done.

According to Neil Tilloston, 90-year-old millionaire investor who owns the Balsams Hotel that dominates this small community, it all began when reporters covering the 1960 John Kennedy-Richard Nixon race were looking for a town they could tout as the first in the United States to vote.

The Russians in my faculty department are gone now," he said, "but we have Bulgarians."

At the Kahul zoo, packs of small boys, a few families and turbaned Tajik tribesmen who have just arrived from the province of Fawzjan near the border with the Soviet Union, wander around the dusty park. They stare at cages of bright-plumaged birds, silky-coated raptors and a weedy-looking elephant.

The student spoke in English as he said he had learned from classes at the American Cultural Centre. Those classed ended after the Soviet Union dispatched troops to Afghanistan in 1979, to support a fellow communist government under guerrilla attack.

But he said he had managed to keep up his English because some of his textbooks were in English, even when some of his professors were Soviets.

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&lt;p

By Jean Chabrier

THE analgesic and febrifugal properties of willow leaves (*Salix Alba*) were already known at the time of Hippocrates of Kos, and that brilliant master of knowledge Pliny already recommended its use.

From those distant times and until the 19th century, they were listed in pharmacopoeias in the form of infusions, plasters and other preparations.

In 1829, a French pharmacist, Leroux, identified the active ingredient contained in the bark and he called it "Salicin". In 1853, another Frenchman, Gherard, carried out the first acetylation of salicylic acid, but it was not until 1899 that the German Hoffmann, working for Bayer, succeeded in obtaining the pure and stable form of our modern aspirin. This therapeutic miracle was the stake and object of numerous economic and political dealings.

It has always remained an excellent analgesic and anti-inflammatory medicine and the world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.

But every rose has its thorn. For more than sixty years, its aggressive action on the fragile digestive mucous membranes has been noted. In 1954, a study showed that it was responsible for nearly a third of progressively developing gastroduodenal ulcers with non-negligible surgical consequences (perforations, peritonitis and haemorrhages).

#### Mechanism

At the same time, gynaecologists are concerned at the outbreak of uterine haemorrhages which are difficult to control at this time except by mutilating surgery.

Rheumatologists, who prescribe a lot of aspirin, had the first cortisones, but they turned out to be imperfect products with troublesome side effects.

In the 60s, a return was made to aspirin which was described as "cortisone-like". Then towards the end of that decade modified cortisones appeared. These were quickly in competition with the group of "non-steroidal" anti-inflammatory drugs, which were highly popular until the last few years.. But their perfect harmlessness is now highly contested and

## Aspirin: no harmless benefactor

Recent evidence of aspirin reducing the risk of heart disease has given a new boost to this excellent analgesic and anti-inflammatory medicine. But every rose has its thorn... and while aspirin has many advantages, there are also quite a few side-effects we cannot ignore.

Some of these drugs had to be taken off the market, and sometimes, even completely banned in certain countries.

The mechanism by which aspirin worked was still not known. In 1975, with the framework of great research on new physio-pathological concepts, "prostaglandins" were isolated.

It was a long and complex study of substances present in all the human organism, forming part of our immunological and cell defence systems.

The very first line of defence is the reaction of inflammation.

Aspirin blocks this reaction by inhibiting the action of prostaglandins more or less completely: whence its anti-inflammatory effects.

#### Characterised

The latter is characterised by the formation of plaques which reduce the width (or lumen) of the vessels (resulting in under-oxygenation), makes them rigid and reduces the kind of inner coating of the vessels.

Moreover, they form asperities. All the conditions are present for clots to form and these can leave the wall of the vessels at any time, leading to the greatly feared "stroke" in the brain or coronary thrombosis.

At the same time, this research explained the haemorrhage-causing effects of aspirin. The mechanisms of coagulation were only explained recently. They are very complex. Briefly, the blood continuously carries a whole series of various substances and specialised cell elements.

At the slightest lesion in a blood-vessel wall, these substances and elements react so as to form a clot to block the gap. The world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.



The world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.

become haemorrhagic. Treatments of this kind need constant supervision.

More recently, the idea was raised of replacing these products by aspirin, whose anti-coagulant effects are now well-known. The discussion on the merits of aspirin or anti-coagulants has not reached a conclusion. "Double blind" studies using a placebo show that taking 30 centigrams of aspirin daily reduces the occurrence of a stroke and appears to cut down recurrence of heart-attacks by 50 per cent but scientists do not yet agree unanimously.

If a human organism is kept under the effect of a product which inhibits prostaglandins, for months or years, there is a risk of the immunity system being deeply upset. Also, with

the rigour and extreme delicacy of the system controlling the perfect balance between acids and bases with a strict pH of 7.35, it might not be completely harmless to maintain a chronic state of acidosis in the body.

Considered as an all-purpose medicine, aspirin is used for many ailments and quite often for want of anything better. It was recently proposed for treating foetal hypotrophy. There are indeed some pregnancies which are strictly normal but in which the child is underweight and undersize. Numerous forms of treatment have been suggested, without much success. Aspirin is the

But the widespread belief that it is a harmless all-purpose product is a matter of dispute.



Asian countries are trying to prevent the spread of AIDS by screening paid blood donations.

By Kathleen Calle

MANILA: Asian countries are trying to prevent the spread of AIDS by screening blood donations and stopping blood banks from paying for what they call "red gold".

It won't be easy.

Medical experts said that if money is paid for blood donations, there is a greater chance of the blood being diseased than there is if donors give voluntarily.

But few developing countries can get enough blood from voluntary donations to satisfy local demand.

"Blood is a very scarce human resource... every country has a problem meeting requirements," Dr Ong Yong Wam, head of Singapore's AIDS committee, told a World Health Organisation meeting on safe blood.

One country taking part in the September 26-30 meeting in Manila said it had knowingly injected diseased blood due to a scarce supply.

The tiny Pacific island chain of Vanuatu told WHO in a report that 14.8 per cent of blood collected between 1984 and 1987 which tested positive for hepatitis B was used on local Melanesian patients. It said the blood was not given to those of European stock.

In China, paid donors gave 95 per cent of blood collected in 1987, a Peking Red Cross director told the meeting.

Other experts at the conference said traditional values prevented many Chinese from donating. Donors received payment equivalent to several weeks' salary, they said.

WHO officials say China, which began encouraging unpaid donations in 1984, had committed itself to eventually phasing out money for blood.

In the Philippines, paid donors account for 70 per cent of the blood supply. Clinics, private hospitals and storefront collection points pay about 175 pesos (eight dollars) a pint.

In India, "professional" donors go from one collection centre to another earning money by donating their blood, medical sources said.

Many donors in Vietnam and Laos are also paid, WHO officials said.

Commercial blood centres exist in developed countries, alongside voluntary collection systems, but health experts say the system of paying for donations is a special problem in poor countries lacking facilities before screening began.

A medical kit to test a unit of blood costs between two and three US dollars, but the annual health budget for some countries in the region is only four dollars per capita, experts said.

## AIDS: blood donor risk

Asia and Oceania accounted for less than one per cent of the 111,854 known AIDS cases worldwide by August, WHO said.

But the number of cases in 24 countries in the region almost doubled in the last year, from 558 to 994. Australia, Japan and New Zealand accounted for 96 per cent of the cases.

Dr Sima Huiyan, a WHO regional adviser, said the rise indicated that AIDS was being brought in from outside the region and that local health people were getting better at diagnosing it.

While countries or territories such as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore test all blood donations for AIDS, others say they cannot afford it.

In Japan, more than 90 per cent of the known 1,038 AIDS carriers are haemophiliacs, who got the virus years ago from imported blood products before screening began.

A medical kit to test a unit of blood costs between two and three US dollars, but the annual health budget for some countries in the region is only four dollars per capita, experts said.

## Chinese herb: new malaria cure?

By Raymond Gijsen

**Artemisia annua, a plant common in Asia and North America could provide new drugs against the world's most widespread disease, say leading researchers.**

the most severe cases can lead to coma and death.

Western scientists are not yet ready to try artemisia on patients, but they reported progress in developing new drugs from the plant's extracts.

"The problem is that parasites have become resistant to a number of existing drugs at the same time. We want a totally new class of drugs," said Daniel Klayman of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington.

Malaria parasites which are resistant to existing drugs like quinine were first found in parts of Latin America in the 1960s and are now found all over the tropics.

Drugs taken to prevent infection are usually prescribed for months at a time and they tend to linger in the blood, offering malaria parasites ample time to get used to them. Klayman said.

"Malaria is the most prevalent disease in the world.

It causes about one million deaths every year. That is a tremendous threat," he said, noting about 30 million people worldwide were estimated to be affected at any given time.

While recognised as a major threat by the World Health Organisation (WHO), malaria received only a fraction of the time and money spent on fighting AIDS and cancer, he said.

"The research on malaria is minimal. No pharmaceutical firm in the US is doing research on anti-malaria drugs," he said, noting research was concentrated in China, the Walter Reed Institute itself and some institutes in Europe.

Most of the potential buyers of anti-malaria drugs live in Third World countries and lack spending power, so drug firms have been unwilling to invest in this area, he said.

But with the numbers of Western tourists to tropical holiday spots rising sharply, some firms see enough com-

mercial potential for a new generation of medicine.

Klayman said preventive drugs still offered selective protection.

But he said Swiss and US researchers who earlier this year reported progress in work on a malaria vaccine were unlikely to produce one before the end of the century.

In the meantime, researchers looking at the artemisia plant think it can yield a drug which attacks the disease head-on after infection has taken place and leaves the body just as quickly, giving parasites no chance to become resistant.

Promises

It promises to be successful against the disease when used at the very first signs of infection and also seems capable of bringing patients out of a coma more quickly in cases of deadly cerebral malaria.

But some Western participants at the conference said that according to their research artemisia drugs might be harmful in the early stages of pregnancy and also seem unable to cure a developed infection entirely, meaning that traditional drugs which stay in the blood longer would still be needed to complete treatment.

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## FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

### CAREFUL DIAGNOSIS NEEDED OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR

QUESTION: How can a doctor tell whether abnormal behaviour is caused by a physical disease or brought on by mental or emotional problems?

ANSWER: It's not an easy diagnosis to make; it takes considerable skill and experience. Researchers estimate that about 10 per cent of all patients who show up in hospitals or emergency rooms with psychiatric symptoms are actually suffering from physical problems that have affected their minds.

A complete physical examination, with laboratory tests, is an important step in finding out exactly what is wrong. This exam should include a complete neurological work-up as well as an assessment of mental status at the time of hospital admission. The patient should be examined and questioned (or family members questioned) about past trauma to the head, drinking and drug history, recent illnesses and usual habits.

Many physical diseases or problems can cause mental instability, mania, depression, schizoid symptoms, anxiety disorders, delirium or dementia. A tumour, stroke or injury to the skull can produce psychiatric

symptoms before any others are seen. ACT scan of the skull may rule out these situations.

Epilepsy can create psychiatric symptoms in some cases. Infectious diseases that cause mental problems, such as meningitis or encephalitis, should also be ruled out. Laboratory tests can be done to rule out thyroid conditions, adrenal disease, diabetes and liver disease.

A leading cause of psychiatric symptoms is drug and alcohol abuse. Most hospitals will test a patient admitted for psychiatric problems for recent drug use. No matter the cause, the patient must be treated with respect and careful analysis to provide them with the help they need.

QUESTION: Can you have a normal delivery after you've had a Caesarean section?

ANSWER: The saying used to be "once a Caesarean, always a Caesarean," but that's no longer so. Vaginal birth after a Caesarean section is a reality and one way to help reduce the huge percentage of Caesarean

The procedure is possible because the

method of performing a Caesarean has changed. Up until a few years ago, a Caesarean incision on the uterus was vertical, an incision that was more likely to rupture if vaginal delivery was attempted. Now, obstetricians use a lower horizontal incision that is less likely to rupture in a later vaginal delivery.

A woman who had a vertical incision during a previous Caesarean should not be allowed to deliver the next baby vaginally, nor should that procedure be allowed if the woman doesn't have a record of the nature of the incision previously used. Eligibility also depends on the reason for the previous Caesarean, such as a medical condition or a pelvis that is too small, still exists.

A ruptured uterus during delivery can kill the foetus. A study of 5,000 deliveries from 1950 to 1980, which included women who had vertical incisions, found 14 foetal deaths due to rupture.

Another study of more than 2,000 women with horizontal scars reported no foetal deaths.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIASERVICES, INC.

By Kathy Cuddihy

**16 September**

It's mid September, for goodness' sake. We really should have received a bank statement by now. Maybe the bills for all our credit card purchases have been processed and the bank isn't speaking to us any more. Maybe they've awarded us an "amnesty", although it's more likely they've written us off as a bad credit risk. Maybe the bank has burned to the ground and all the debit records were destroyed.

Maybe I should stop worrying. If I haven't seen the statement, then neither has Himself. Every cloud has a silver lining.

On the other hand, maybe the situation is so drastic that they'll phone the balance through to him...

**18 September**

The kids have started their horse-riding lessons once again — there go any illusions we might have had about solvency.

Kieran informs me that he now thinks jodhpurs "look like sissy pants." This comes from the mouth of a boy who just HAD to have 2 pairs from the trendy, over-priced equestrian shop that must have seen us coming a mile away.

Tara is absolutely determined to win a riding competition this year. First prize is a horse. I made polite enquiries and discovered that this prize horse is also young and unbroken. I may have ended up as the stooge who

## Dear diary ...

cleans bird and hamster cages, walks dogs and house-trains cats, but I definitely call a halt at breaking in horses.

**20 September**

After a few sporadic starts I am back in the "swing" of tennis (pardon the pun!) with great gusto. Himself, too, has the bug. Consequently, the only time we seem to see each other is on the courts — opposite courts. We have to shout our questions and answers to each other between points: "Any mail today?" "Nothing you'd want to know about" (dare I tell him the bank statement arrived? Worse, their debit records weren't destroyed.)

**23 September**

Perhaps I should regulate my enthusiasm for tennis. People are already asking me if I ever go home. The kids are considering putting out a missing persons report on me! They can't even muster a sense of humour when I accidentally pack tennis balls instead of tangerines in their lunch boxes.

All I can say is that the possibility of tennis elbow has a lot more appeal than housemaid's knees or dishpan hands.

**3 October**

What is it about maintenance men that gives them such a superior attitude? It is because they know where the water

mains faucet is hidden, and we don't? Or because they can get a temperamental dishwasher to work at the flick of a switch, and we can't? Or is it because our monumental dilemmas have a way of diminishing just as the Fix-It team arrives? Whatever the reason, I resent their attitude of superior efficiency, especially when it is so seldom followed by long-lasting results.

Today I called Maintenance about a blocked drain. The lone repairman stood at my door with an all-knowing grin on his face. "Right, Madam, why don't you show me where you think this blocked drain might be."

I took him to the back of the house and pointed to the tops of 2 offending drain pipes, the tell-tale puddles of water still surrounding them.

The silly grin broadened and then proceeded to tell me that the water no doubt came from the sprinkler system.

"The sprinkler hasn't been on all day. And why is the grass 8 inches tall right here and burned out in the rest of the lawn?"

"All right, Madam," the smile placated, "I'll have a look." Just to keep you quiet, bimbo, he probably muttered to himself.

Not too long afterwards I enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing a team of 4 men and

multi-meters of tubing to clear the drain. I bravely resisted the impulse to write "I told you so" in shaving cream on the window overlooking their activities.

**10 October**

Somebody somewhere wants me off the tennis court and back in the kitchen.

Three days ago I got hit in the mouth with a tennis ball. Messy and debilitating, but not disabling. Yesterday I gave my ankle an almighty sprain and had to be carried home.

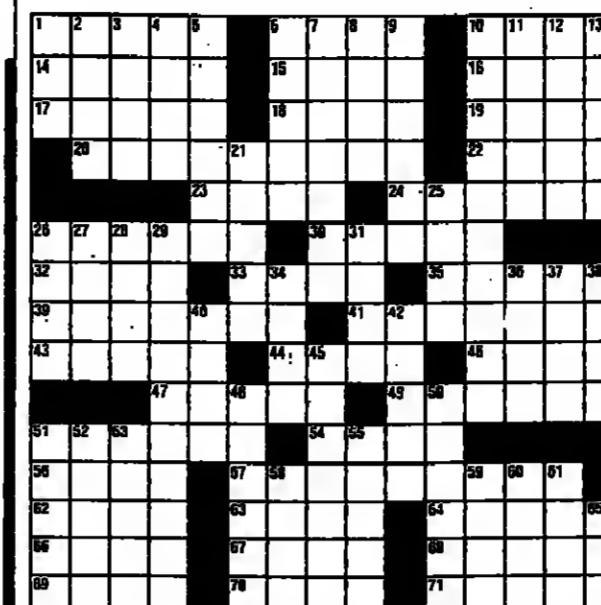
Pain I can bear — as long

as it is accompanied by a suitable dose of sympathy. But to suffer one without the pleasure of the other is just too unfair. Himself gave nothing more than a consoling cluck before disappearing for his own evening of tennis. The kids were slightly more attentive but punctuated their presence with "Gross, Mom. Look at the size of your foot." Tara later had the indecency to point out that if I kept gorging myself to overcome my self-pity, I'd have a pair of hips to match my bloated ankle! No respect.

To make matters worse, the drains backed up again and I slipped in the overflow. I called Maintenance, but their men were on another job: some silly woman couldn't get her dishwasher to work.

There's a message in all this. I shudder to think what it might be. Breaking in horses suddenly seems a lot easier than what I'm going through ...

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 " — of dreadful note"; Macbeth
- 6 Engendered
- 10 Certain golf stroke
- 14 Singing syllabas
- 15 Dream, in Dijon
- 16 Buffalo's waterfront
- 17 The Norse gods
- 18 Shaitanad
- 19 Lahr rola
- 20 OK Corral figura
- 22 Fat
- 23 Imitize
- 24 Corrects
- 26 Competition priza winner
- 30 Farber and namasakes
- 32 La Scala offering
- 33 Icelandic lore
- 35 Typa faces: Abbr.
- 38 Shoreline
- 41 Mostam
- 43 Adjustad a motor
- 44 Being, to Cato
- 46 Italia's capital
- 47 Dough raiser?
- 49 Preacher
- 51 — horse
- 54 Italian wine city
- 56 Nimbus
- 57 Famous frontiersman
- 62 Asgard chief
- 63 Sino-Russian river
- 64 King of Crete
- 65 Put aside
- 67 Out of the ordinary
- 68 Skirt type
- 69 Time spans
- 70 Freshly
- 71 Famous
- 72 Plant membrane
- 73 Natural height
- 74 Turkish capital
- 75 Aviator
- 76 "... — endearing young charms"
- 77 Police device
- 78 Tony of the "Twins"
- 79 Tool chest item
- 80 " — old cowhand"
- 81 Farm fixture
- 82 Step — (hustle)
- 83 Usa 52 Down
- 84 Brainstorm
- 85 But, Lat.
- 86 Advocate: Suffr.
- 87 Norwegian coastal feature
- 88 Lasting beginning
- 89 Make mora profound
- 90 Oklahoma outlaw
- 91 Orlando
- 92 Peril
- 93 Aoolee
- 94 Sir Entrap
- 95 Ivy
- 96 Thai
- 97 Enisile
- 98 Erato
- 99 Once upon a time
- 100 Acting
- 101 Rocks
- 102 Ark
- 103 Raglan
- 104 Ole
- 105 Tasse
- 106 Selma
- 107 Arrears
- 108 Rapt
- 109 Stereo
- 110 Nita
- 111 Met
- 112 Eolian
- 113 Dais
- 114 Are
- 115 Splats
- 116 NRA
- 117 Ser

### DOWN

- 1 — glance
- 2 Sketched
- 3 Facile
- 4 Lamb's nom da plume
- 5 Dickens' Rosa
- 6 Hillsides, to Burne
- 7 Akin
- 8 Lasting beginning
- 9 Make mora profound
- 10 Oklahoma outlaw
- 11 Advocate: Suffr.
- 12 Norwegian coastal feature
- 13 Wards off
- 21 Wom-our
- 25 Knight waar
- 28 Finished
- 27 In — of (instead)
- 28 Moslem call to prayer

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

E	R	I	L	O	B	M	A	D	A	M	S	S
S	E	F	O	L	E	G	A	N	I	M	U	S
C	O	P	T	I	R	O	I	O	I	O	E	
A	P	O	O	R	L	R	A	N	D	O		
P	E	R	I	L	O	A	O	O	L	E	S	R



"Why only last night I unwittingly mistook a tenner for a membership card!"

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

### USE YOUR ENTRIES WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ K 9 6 3  
♥ 8 5 2  
♦ 8 6 4  
♣ K 10 4

**WEST**  
♦ 5  
♥ K 3 7 4  
♦ K 9 3 2  
♣ A 7 3

**EAST**  
♦ 4  
♥ Q 10 9  
♦ A Q 10 7 5  
♣ J 8 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 8 7 2  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ Void  
♣ Q 9 5

**The bidding:**  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

**Opening lead:** Five of ♠

There are two ways to make today's contract. One is to take a lucky guess in the club suit when it comes to finessing for the jack. The other is to remove all elements of chance. In that case, you will succeed regardless of who holds the jack of clubs!

South's opening bid of four spades is acceptable in third- or fourth-seat only. In first- or second-position, you should open with one spade — avoid making a preemptive bid on a hand that contains two aces.

Since he did not like the idea of leading from any of his plain-suit holdings, West selected his singleton trump for the opening salvo—not

that it mattered, but a poor choice in our opinion. There were three obvious losers, two hearts and a club. The road to success lay in not losing a second trick in the club suit. Declarer found a way of getting home regardless of which defender sheltered the knave.

He won the first trick with dummy's king, underplaying the queen from hand. Next came a diamond ruffed high, followed by the eight of trumps overtaken with dummy's nine and a second diamond again ruffed high. Declarer simply preserved two of trumps now served as an entry for another diamond ruff, and the groundwork for the upcoming strip and endplay had been accomplished.

South simply cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart; and sat back to enjoy the fruits of his labor. The defenders could take a second heart trick with impunity, but that's where the free ride ended.

Whichever defender was then on lead would have the choice of losing plays. A club return would obviate declarer's need to guess the location of the jack. A red-suited return would permit declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a club from the other. Either way, the ace of clubs was going to be the third and last trick for the defense.

## Are you second-rate at first aid?

Could you rush in to save a life in a crowded restaurant or a busy street? Or would you just stand by and stare? Complete the quiz to see how you could cope with a crisis.

By Mary Kemp

YOU don't have to be a doctor or a nurse to know the basics of First Aid.

Whether in a cinema and the person next to you has a nose bleed, or in a taxi and the driver suddenly slumps over in the wheel, knowing what to do in an emergency can save lives.

Would you know what to do until professional help arrived?

How would you cope if your mother dropped a cup of scalding hot tea on her lap? Or if your little brother had a pencil stuck in his ear?

This quiz shows how you measure up in the First Aid ratings.

t. How would you stop a nose bleed?

A. Sit well forward and pinch the soft part of your nose?

B. Place a cold key down your back?

C. Sit down and put your feet in the air?

D. Sit down and support it on some cushions?

3. It is Friday afternoon and you have a horrendous toothache, but the earliest you can go and see the dentist is the next morning. Do you:

A. Have a couple of brandies and go to bed?

B. Rinse your mouth with hot water?

C. Rub a green leaf on the tooth?

D. Scratch the sting to relieve the irritation?

4. Barbecuing on an open fire goes horribly wrong when your friend's shirt catches alight. What is your reaction?



A boy with a nose bleed. Would you know what to do to help?

A. Try and take her shirt off?

B. Roll her along the ground in an attempt to put out the flames?

C. Lie her down with the burning side up and douse her in water?

D. Beat her with a damp towel?

6. You are going home from work on a crowded bus when the lady next to you suddenly faints. Do you:

A. Lie her down with her legs raised?

B. Give her a glass of water?

C. Slap her cheeks and try and arouse her?

D. Give her a glass of brandy?

7. How would you remove a fly that had flown into your eye?

A. Rub your eye vigorously?

B. Wash your eye with a sterile water solution?

C. Use the corner of a handkerchief to try and lift it out?

D. Blow your nose?

8. At a dinner party your host suddenly chokes on the mackerel pate. How would you help:

A. Punch him gently in the stomach?

B. Bend him over and slap him between the shoulder blades?

C. Give him a drink of water?

D. Give him a slice of bread to chew?

9. What would you do if you burned hand?

A. Hold it under hot water for 10 minutes?

B. Rub some butter on it?

C. Hold it under lowly running cold water for 10 minutes?

D. Wrap it in some clean fluffy material?

10. After a morning jog you discover you have strained your leg. What do you do:

A. Put your leg up for the rest of the day?

B. Give your leg a massage?

C. Have a hot bath?</p

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

World economy will grow 3.9pc this year

## North and South headed for economic growth

VIENNA, Austria, Oct 18, (AP): The world economy will grow 3.9 per cent this year as both North and South appear headed for increased economic growth, the 1988-89 global report of the UN Industrial Development Organization said yesterday.

The world economy's rate of expansion in 1987 was 3.4 per cent.

The 256-page study, introduced by UNIDO director general Domingo L. Siazon Jr., said in 1988 Third World countries should achieve a 4.4 percent growth rate, which is a full percentage point higher than in 1987 and more than three times the rate in 1986.

Despite pessimistic projections and fears of overheated

economies, the report said that "developed countries will achieve a solid 3.5 per cent growth in 1988," with strong performances likely from the United States and Canada.

### Growth

"UNIDO is of the view that at the end of 1988 the United States economy will register a 3.4 per cent growth in GDP, with the unemployment rate no lower than 5.4 per cent and the rate of inflation only slightly higher than 4 per cent," the annual review of the world economy said.

Strong showings also were forecast for Japan and Western Europe, with West Germany "most likely" to achieve a growth rate higher than the 1.9

per cent projected by the organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

As a whole, OECD countries were expected to enjoy an average growth of 3.5 per cent in 1988, reversing the steadily declining growth trend in recent years.

"This long-awaited and above par performance by the OECD countries," the report said, "will improve the economic prospects for developing countries in 1988."

The immediate outlook for the Third World seemed "considerably" better than reported previously and "many economically troubled countries will make substantial strides toward adjustment with growth for the

first time since 1980," the report said.

However, the yearly study warned that in the medium term, the possibility of another recession can not be completely ruled out.

It noted among several causes for concern a "public hypersensitivity" about inflation in the United States, Europe and Japan, "the continuing fascination of the public by the month-to-month behaviour of the US trade statistics" and a deflationary course for the US economy requested by West European leaders and policy-makers.

### Reduction

"It cannot be ruled out that the (new) incoming (US) administration may ask for and obtain a drastic reduction in public spending. That would inevitably generate a recession," the global report said.

It warned that an American recession could slow down the pace of the world economy to a considerable extent.

"UNIDO is not predicting a recession but ... a continuous economic growth of 3.4 per cent annually well into 1992."

"However, given the volatility of the international financial market and rising inflationary fear in many developed countries, the possibility of an unwanted and imposed recession in the United States should not be ruled out completely," the study said.

Economic reforms undertaken by some East European

countries may have an adverse effect on their immediate growth and the impact of slow growth in these countries "will probably be felt by very few developing nations," the report said.

Communist nations in Asia, particularly China, will have higher growth rates.

In Latin America, Brazil and Mexico were expected to enjoy strong performances while Argentina may have a drop in GDP, the report said.

The countries of North Africa were expected to do better, except for Libya and Sudan, while those of the Indian subcontinent, especially India and Pakistan, were likely to have higher growth rates, the UNIDO report said.

## USCB announces first profit in two years

RIYADH, Oct 18, (Reuter): United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB), one of the kingdom's nine joint ventures, has reported its first profit in more than two years.

The bank said in an unaudited statement appearing in the Arabic press today its net earnings for the first nine months of 1988 were 3.9 million riyals (\$1 million).

USCB lost 17.9 million riyals (\$4.7 million) during the same period last year and 1.4 million riyals (\$373,000) in the first half of 1988.

Operating revenues rose by 7.1 million riyals (\$1.9 million) to 99.9 million (\$26.6 million) while operating expenditures fell by six million riyals (\$1.6 million) to 71.4 million (\$19 million).

**Provisions:**

USCB said provisions for non-performing loans were cut to 24.6 million riyals (\$6.6 million) from 33.3 million (\$8.9 million).

Total assets rose 5.5 per cent to \$3.8 billion riyals (\$1.2 billion) while deposits climbed by 14.1 per cent to 3.64 billion (\$971 million).

The bank, one of the kingdom's nine joint ventures, is owned 70 per cent by Saudi shareholders and 10 per cent each by Bank Melli Iran, United Bank of Pakistan and Saudi International Bank.

### Move to prop up oil prices

## OPEC seeks common ground for new accord

MADRID, Oct 18, (Reuter): Major OPEC nations, seeking to reverse the biggest oil price slump since 1986, hope to lay the ground work this week for a major new production pact, but first they must overcome years of enmity between Iran and Iraq.

The 13-nation organisation, in disarray after a production war flooded markets with oil, has called a joint meeting here of key committees which will bring the oil ministers of Iran and Iraq together for the first time since the Gulf war ceasefire.

### Groundwork

Oil market analysts say the talk will be crucial if OPEC is to capitalise on a new pledge of output restraint from Gulf producers and seal a comprehensive accord to boost prices at a meeting of all 13 ministers to take place in Vienna next month.

"Madrid has to lay the groundwork," said Steve Turner, oil analyst at brokers Smith New Court in London. "The meetings are primarily to get Iraq back into a production agreement."

But bringing Iraq back into the fold may not be that easy given nearly eight years of war with Iran during which both sides wrought untold damage to each other's oil production facilities and refineries.

Iraq has been excluded from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' pacts since

1986 because of a row over its demand to be allowed to produce as much oil as Iran.

Baghdad's production was severely curtailed by the war, but since July's ceasefire it has been able to step up output sharply and is now pumping up to 2.7 million barrels per day — the second highest among OPEC members after Saudi Arabia.

A first sign OPEC might be edging towards a new output pact to replace a 1986 agreement now in tatters came on Monday when Gulf states floated a scheme to give Iraq a quota equal to that of Iran, namely 2.369 million barrels per day.

But within hours Iran poured cold water on the scheme, labelling it "totally unprincipled." In typical see-saw reaction, oil prices gave up half the gains scored on the Gulf plan.

**Strategy:**

The Madrid meetings of OPEC's prices and long-term strategy committees will try to reconcile Tehran and Baghdad, but the task has been made more difficult by lack of progress at UN-sponsored Gulf war peace talks.

"They will have to forget prisoners of war and the legacy of the fighting and say 'let's concentrate just on oil,'" said Smith New Court's Turner.

Iran and Iraq sit on the strategy committee — resurrec-

ted after a gap of more than two years — with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Algeria. It will be the first time Iranian and Iraqi ministers have met since the Gulf war ceasefire took hold.

**Agreement:**

But even if Iran does drop objections to Iraq's readmission to an OPEC production agreement, a number of other

hurdles could still bar the way to a full-scale pact in Vienna in November.

The Gulf producers plan thrashed out at a meeting in Riyadh on Sunday, forces a rise in OPEC's overall production ceiling to 18.5 to 19 million barrels a day from what would currently be 17.429 million if Iraq were put on an equal footing with Iran.

But that would in practice

entail sharp cutbacks from what was estimated to be total output of 20.6 million barrels per day in September and oil markets are already sceptical.

It would mean the United Arab Emirates scaling back to just over one million barrels per day from a current level estimated in a Reuter survey of OPEC nations at 1.9 million in September.

## US aid to Egypt and Pakistan criticised as hurting business

WASHINGTON, Oct 18, (AP): Some US aid to Egyptian and Pakistani government agencies undercuts President Ronald Reagan's policy of helping private business and discouraging government enterprises, congressional investigators say.

The criticism came from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which watches government spending for Congress. This report was sent to Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, chairman of the subcommittee in the House of Representatives that deals with Middle East problems.

It centred on goods distributed by the US Agency for International Development (AID), including farm and building equipment, spare parts, grain and oil.

"For example, although aid has encouraged Pakistan to eliminate agricultural subsidies, it has financed \$142 million in fertilizer and 123 million in wheat and cotton imports that

short of accusing it of breaking the law but the official agency said it was "a centre of controversy." China Daily said the state decision to tighten control over companies such as Kanghua "was prompted by raging business irregularities."

Kanghua was founded in June 1987 and given special tax breaks because of its donations to a charity for handicapped Chinese headed by Deng Pufang, crippled son of China's 84-year-old senior leader.

### Businessmen

Its size was unknown — no accounts were published — but Chinese businessmen said it was powerful because of its connections with the Deng family.

One Chinese official said privately the crackdown on Kanghua was not an attack on Deng but would be an embarrassment. Targetting the company was

accumulation of local currencies remaining idle is high in terms of missed opportunities to support development," according to the report.

Inflation in Egypt has been reported easing this year, however.

The report included a memo from Richard E. Bissell, the Assistant AID Administrator, saying that the Egyptian government had tentatively promised to release about \$165 million worth of the local currency for development efforts this year and next.

### Development

"The report's conclusion that more development is achieved by applying more local currency to more projects, rather than specific budgetary support without regard to the circumstances in a given country, is not supported by analysis in the report," Bissell wrote.

The congressional investigators had asked administration officials for comment.

## China reassures investors over breakup of Kanghua

BEIJING, Oct 18, (Reuter): China reassured foreign investors yesterday that they would not lose money through any breakup of the state-owned company Kanghua in the campaign against irregular business practices.

The official New China News Agency said China Kanghua Development Corporation would carry out "all unfulfilled economic and trade contracts with foreign firms."

Corporation chairman Tang Ke was quoted as saying Kanghua's Hong Kong branch, Bring Fast Company, would be dissolved after clearing up contracts and assets.

### Links

China announced on Saturday that Kanghua, which has close links with China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, would have to be "cleaned up and rectified." Official newspapers stopped

meant as a lesson that the Communist Party was not just using words to attack corruption, he said.

The New China News Agency indicated Kanghua's size by saying it had concluded about 4,000 import and export contracts totalling \$670 million with firms in 30 countries and regions in its 16 months of existence.

This sum does not include business done by Kanghua's 171 branch companies within China or the investment services and technology development Kanghua also engaged in.

Tang was quoted as saying Kanghua had expanded too rapidly and its scope of business was too large.

The breakup of Kanghua means it will not be allowed to import or export and many subsidiaries will be dissolved or divorced from the parent company.

## World Business Summary

### Jordanian dinar slides in chaotic market

AMMAN, Oct 18, (Reuter): The Jordanian dinar plunged in chaotic trading today, with banks quoting 490/495 fils to the dollar and moneychangers posting rates as low as 510/530. The market rates lost touch with the Central Bank rate of 441/443 fils, its 14 per cent below the rate set on Saturday. "Demand for foreign currencies outstripped supply four-fold," one moneychanger said. "People don't know what is happening and they all want to buy dollars." There are 1,000 fils to the dinar, which has lost a quarter of its value against the dollar this year. A dealer at one leading bank attributed the latest pressure on the dinar to a scramble for foreign currency by banks seeking to satisfy client demand to cover letters of credit. "There is less demand for dollars from moneychangers. Now the banks are the market-makers," the dealer said. "If they cannot supply foreign exchange they will lose credibility." The dinar has lost more than 14 per cent of its dollar value since the Central Bank brought official rates closer to those of the free market on Saturday. It has declined even more against other currencies, which have been gaining against the dollar abroad. The Central Bank has said it would intervene when necessary to stabilise the dinar, but has not done so.

### Philip Morris announces \$11b tender offer for Kraft

NEW YORK, Oct 18, (AP): Philip Morris Companies Inc. announced an \$11-billion cash tender offer for Kraft Inc. on Monday that would be the second biggest corporate acquisition in US history. The only larger deal was the \$13.4-billion purchase of Gulf Corp. in 1984 by Standard Oil Co. of California, which later changed its name to Chevron Corp. Philip Morris said it had no plans to sell off any parts of Kraft to finance the deal. It said its offer of \$90 a share, in cash, was 51 per cent above Kraft's stock price as of last Friday. Philip Morris asked Kraft to drop a by-law provision aimed at staving off unfriendly takeovers and asked to meet with Kraft management as soon as possible. In a letter to Kraft chairman John M. Richman, Hamish Maxwell, chairman of the board of Philip Morris, said: "Kraft's food business complements our food business."

You may have heard about the excellent returns offered by offshore companies, yet been put off by either the lack of recognisable company names or by confusion over what they actually do.

As an overseas resident there are definite advantages in investing offshore, but to quote the *Observer* newspaper of 19th June 1988, "if one is going to place money overseas the safest rule is to stick to the funds run by the offshore arms of UK financial institutions whose reputation and standing are beyond dispute."

Obviously, Barclays Bank and Barclays International Funds are such institutions.

### A wide choice

We now offer 17 offshore investment funds marketed from politically stable Jersey in the Channel Islands. Advisors to the funds are Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management Limited who currently look after

investors funds to the value of £12 billion.

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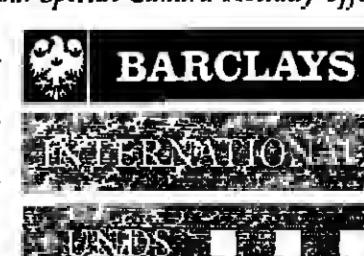
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# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1988

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## International Bond Highlights

**London** — The European Investment Bank is issuing a 100 mn stg Eurobond due Feb 3, 1997 paying 10 pct and priced at 100-1/4 pct, lead manager Kleinwort Benson Ltd said. (RTVB 1433)

**Tokyo** — Tokyo Electron Ltd said it will issue 150 mn dls in four-year warrant bonds through public placement, with Nomura International Ltd as lead manager. In London, Nomura said the coupon on the Eurobond issue was indicated at five pct. (RTXY 0804, RTZL 1035)

**Paris** — France's Credit Foncier de France is launching a 60 mn ECU bond, priced at 101-3/8, with a coupon of 7-5/8 pct, lead manager Credit Commercial de France said. (RTUD 1347)

**Zurich** — Electrowatt AG is issuing a 150 mn Swiss franc, maximum 10-year bond with an indicated coupon of 4-3/4 pct and indicated pricing at 100-3/4 pct, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (RTYD 0821)

**London** — Eurofima is issuing a 100 mn Canadian dlr Eurobond due Nov 21, 1996 paying 10-3/8 pct and priced at 101-7/8 pct, lead manager Banque Paribas Capital Markets Ltd said. (RTUE 1353)

**Zurich** — Sweden's Mo Och Domsjo AB (MODO) is issuing a 100 mn Swiss franc, five pct, 10-year bond priced at 101-1/4 pct, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (RTVW 1519)

## Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 12-1/4 12	12-11-7/8	12-11-15/16
FFT 4.70/80	4.80/90	5.00/05
PAR 7-13/16 15/16	7-7/8 8	B-1/16 3/16
ZUR 1-5/8 1-7/8	3-1/4 3-1/2	3-5/8 3-7/8
BRX 7.65	7-1/8 1/4	7-1/4 5/16
RON 10-1/4 10-3/4	11-1/4 11-3/4	11-3/8 11-7/8
ANS 5.43/56	5.25/38	5.31/43
TOK 3.8125 8750	4.2500 3125	4.3750 4375
ECU 7.18 7.43	7.37 7.50	7.56 7.68

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Oct 18, (KUNA):
FOLLOWING ARE THE AVERAGE KD INTEREST RATES OF LOCAL INTERBANK TRANSACTIONS AS REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS TO CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT TODAY:
Period Bid Offered
1 month 6-1/16 6-5/16
3 months 6-3/16 6-1/2
6 months 6-3/16 6-5/16
1 year 6-5/16 6-3/4

## FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	1150	1190		
AEG	184.0	185.2	AIJINMOTO	2760	2770	MITSUB EST	2420	2520
ALLIANZ VR	1694.0	1685.0	AKAI ELEC	535	530	MITSUB HVY	936	950
BADEMERK	183.0	178.0	AOKI	960	964	MITSU CO	893	907
BAFS	279.3	276.0	ASAHI GLS	1820	1800	MITSUKOSH	1810	1840
BAYER	310.5	307.4	ASAHI OPT	590	600	MITSUMI EL	932	941
BAYER HYP	388.0	383.0	BANK TOKYO	1550	1540	NICHICON	1110	1130
BAYER VER	383.0	384.5	BRIDGESTON	1230	1220	NIKKO CMNT	859	854
BBC	318.0	319.5	CAIN	1300	1290	NIKKO SEC	1680	1730
BMF	428.0	427.0	CASIO COMP	1280	1300	NIP ELEC	1800	1800
BMW	524.0	512.0	CHUGAI PHM	1420	1420	NIP KOKKAN	765	781
COMMERZBK	254.3	252.5	CITIZEN H	795	801	NIP OIL	1140	1150
CONTI GUM	254.5	251.8	D-ICHI KAN	3140	3100	NIP STEEL	765	775
DAHNER BEN	732.5	713.5	DAI NIP IK	817	818	NIP YUSEN	750	758
DEUTSC BK	544.5	542.5	DAI NIP PT	2670	2670	NIS MOTOR	1180	1170
DLW	396.0	382.0	DAI NIP SC	890	880	NOHARA SEC	3520	3610
DRESDNER B	311.0	308.5	DAI NIP TO	605	610	ONBA CO	805	809
DT BABCOCK	170.5	169.7	DAICE	770	778	OLYMPUS	1020	1060
FAZ INDEX	534.69	528.03	DAIMA N	1910	1910	PENTA OCN	940	966
FEUDMUNIE	282.1	280.5	DAIMA SEC	2310	2360	PIONEER	3180	3100
GOLDSCHMID	320.0	317.8	EBRA NFG	870	863	REINOW	875	877
NARPERNER	415.0	415.0	EISAI	1800	1810	RICON	1090	1100
HOECHST AG	309.8	307.0	FUTSU	1520	1490	SHIBUYA	1970	1930
HOESCH	164.5	161.9	FUJI BANK	3130	3150	SANYO ELEC	645	646
HORTEN	212.0	212.0	FUJI PHOTO	3190	3180	SETIU ST	1920	1940
HUSSEL NLD	460.0	460.0	FUJISAWA	1590	1570	SEKISUI PB	1730	1750
KALI SALZ	162.1	162.5	FUJITA CP	760	769	SHARP	1030	990
KARSTADT	453.5	451.0	IMITACHI	1500	1490	SHISEIDO	1380	1440
KAUFHOF	414.5	411.0	KONICA	1940	1940	SONY	6120	6040
KLOECK N	138.5	136.8	KOTAKA	2000	2000	SUMITOMO	1090	1100
KLOECK W	103.3	100.4	KTD YOKADO	3760	3750	TAISEI	1040	1060
LINDE	700.0	682.0	JAP SYN RU	959	960	TAISHO MNR	1160	1200
LUFTWAFFA	153.0	151.0	JAPAN AIR	13500	13700	TAKEADA CR	2450	2430
MANN	217.0	215.5	JAPAN MET	600	600	TEIJIN	725	730
MANNESMANN	186.2	181.8	KAJIMA	1630	1640	TKO NEW IX	108.66	128.05
MEGATEK	611.0	585.5	KANSAI EL	3450	3570	TKO NEW MR	2000	2060
METALLGES	330.0	302.0	KAO SOAP	1560	1530	TOkyo ELEC	990	1000
MIXDORF/PF	481.0	421.0	KAMASAKI H	728	744	TOkyo GAS	1330*	1380*
MORSK HYD	28.50	28.10	KAMASAKI S	900	905	TOkyo PDR	6140*	6380
PHILIP KOM	620.0	615.0	KIRIN BREW	1730	1730	TOPAY IND	816*	868*
PORSCHE	583.5	570.0	KOMATSU	775	792	TOSHIBA BEL	1000*	995*
PREUSSAG	181.5	182.0	KUBATO LTD	809	818	TOTO	1940	1920
PWA	237.0	234.5	KYOCERA	4770	4780	TOYO KOGO	665	673
RHEINMETAL	331.0	320.0	MAKITA EL	1440	1440	TOYO MOT	2480	2460
RHE	233.8	234.0	MARUJI	2720	2680	YAMAHA	1170	1170
RHE P	216.6	216.0	MATSUTA E1	2330	2290	YAMAKUCHI	1680	1720
SALAMANDER	295.0	288.0	MATSUTA EL	0	2650	YAMAKUCHI	3710	3700
SCHERTING	565.0	553.0	MEIJI SEIK	922	917	YAMAZAKI	1300	1320

## Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE DOWN, OFF LOWS, ON UNCERTAINTY

TOKYO, OCT 18, REUTER — SHARE PRICES CLOSED DOWN, BUT FULL THEM UP FROM THE MINUS SIDE, BROKERS SAID.

"THERE IS NO INCENTIVE FOR INVESTORS TO COME IN."

THE EMPEROR FACTOR AND CAPITAL GAINS TALK IN THE DIET WITH THE GENERAL CONCERN OVER INSIDER TRADING IS MAKING INVESTORS RELUCTANT TO GO INTO THE MARKET," SAID A TRADER AT YAMAUCHI SECURITIES. "IN A MARKET WHERE THERE IS VERY LITTLE VOLUME ANY BAD NEWS RELEASES SELLING PRESSURE," HE SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX LOST 126.76 POINTS, OR 0.46 PCT, TO 27,141.98. IT ENDED 37.83 POINTS LOWER ON MONDAY.

THE FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, FELL 19.39 POINTS TO 2,108.66 AFTER A 3.51-POINT GAIN ON MONDAY.

LOSERS TOOK A NEARLY THREE-TO-ONE LEAD OVER WINNERS IN A SESSION WHICH SAW A DULL TURNOVER OF 400 MN SHARES, UNCHANGED FROM MONDAY.

FALLS WERE LED BY SECURITY HOUSE, COMMUNICATIONS, GAS,

NON-LIFE INSURANCE, RAILWAY/BUS, REAL ESTATE, BANK,

CONSTRUCTION, MINING AND ELECTRIC POWER STOCKS.

RISSES WERE LED BY ELECTRICAL, NON-FERROUS METAL,

PHARMACEUTICAL, CREDIT/LEASE, PULP/PAPER, TRADING HOUSE,

RETAIL, FISHERY, FOOD AND SOME MANUFACTURING SHARES.

THE INDEX'S INITIAL SLIDE ACCELERATED ON NEWS THAT THE EMPEROR RECEIVED A MASSIVE 600 CC OF BLOOD THIS MORNING AFTER LOSING LARGE AMOUNTS OF BLOOD FROM INTERNAL BLEEDING.

THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD REFUSED TO SAY HOW MUCH BLOOD HE

HAS LOST, ONLY THAT IT WAS THE MOST SINCE TWO PREVIOUS

Critical Bleeding Episodes, on September 19 and October 1.

PULP/PAPER STOCK, THE MARKET BAROMETER OF THE EMPEROR'S

HEALTH, SURGED ON THE NEWS, BUT LATER CAME OFF SOMEWHAT.

THE FINANCE MINISTRY HAS ASKED SECURITY HOUSES NOT TO

TRADE ON THE ILLNESS OF THE EMPEROR, BROKERS SAID. BUT THE

MINISTRY HAS DENIED SUCH TALK.

## Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, OCT 18, REUTER — SHARE PRICES CLOSED SLIGHTLY LOWER, WITH MOST INVESTORS CAUTIOUS AHEAD OF WEDNESDAY'S LOCAL MARKET HOLIDAY AND AHEAD OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LAST OCTOBER'S GLOBAL STOCKS CRASH, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ENDED 3.15 POINTS LOWER AT 2,590.41.

## Nigeria resists US pressure to lift wheat import ban

LAGOS, Oct 18. (Reuter): Nigeria is facing mounting US pressure, including the threat of trade sanctions, to lift a ban on wheat imports.

But the military government has reaffirmed its stand with a sharp response to complaints by the American ambassador that the ban discriminated against US farm exports.

"The wheat ban is an essential part of our readjustment process aimed at a self-reliant economy," Duro Onasabe, the senior government spokesman, said on Monday.

He said Nigeria would not be blackmailed or intimidated over the issue, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

### Ban

Onahulu was reacting to media accounts of a speech on October 6 by US Ambassador Princeton Lyman in which he attacked the wheat ban, imposed at the start of 1987, and an earlier embargo on rice imports.

Lyman warned that new congressional legislation aimed at narrowing the trade deficit requires the President to report on all countries discriminating against US exports.

"Trade sanctions are called for if no redress is possible," he said, adding that the ban had widened his country's trade deficit with Nigeria.

Nigeria's urban bread consumers were the sixth largest market for US wheat exports before the ban. Nigeria spent \$250 million a year in the early 1980s on importing wheat, mostly from the United States.

But the government of General Ibrahim Babangida imposed the ban to boost local production and save foreign currency as part of its structural adjustment programme.

Lyman alleged that the ban, which has driven many of Nigeria's 21 flour mills out of business, was discriminatory because of massive smuggling.

"If Nigeria bans American agricultural products, and then smuggles in wheat flour and rice from other sources, the issue becomes much more serious because we us."

"In fact at least 300,000 tons each of smuggled wheat flour and rice is entering Nigeria each year," Lyman said.

## Gulf Air to resume flights to Iraq and Iran

BAHRAIN, Oct 18. (Reuter): Gulf Air said today it was finalising plans to resume flights to Iran and Iraq after a seven-year break caused by the Gulf war.

Deputy chief of aviation operations Hassan Juma told reporters the airline would schedule three flights a week to Baghdad, two to the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas and four to Shiraz in southeast Iran.

Juma would not give a starting date, although he said the services would begin by the end of the year.

### Destination

He said Tehran would initially not be included as a destination due to little demand from passengers on the Arash side of the Gulf.

The airline, jointly owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, suspended flights to both Iran and Iraq in March 1981, six months after the start of the Gulf war.

A ceasefire came into effect in the war on August 20 and several international airlines have since announced plans to resume flights to Iran and Iraq.

Gulf Air is negotiating a loan of \$160 million with a consortium of international banks to buy four Boeing 767 airliners.

## US business inventories continue to rise

WASHINGTON, Oct 18. (AP): US business inventories continued their steady rise in August, the government said on Monday, but economists remain untroubled because the expansion is not outpacing strong sales.

The Commerce Department said goods held on shelves and in backlots rose 0.8 per cent to \$733.7 billion, following a 0.7 per cent gain in July. It was the 20th consecutive monthly increase.

Rising inventories can be a sign of economic sluggishness as manufacturers order production cuts and layoffs while goods in reserve are sold off.

### Sales

However, analysts are not particularly troubled by current inventory levels because sales also have been strong. Compared with a year ago, inventories are up 8.7 per cent while sales are up 8.0 per cent.

The department said August sales totalled \$487.7 billion, up a brisk 1.1 per cent from July, when the gain was a slight 0.1 per

## Despite doubts raised by crash

# High-tech revolution in financial market forges ahead

NEW YORK, Oct 18. (AP): The stock market crash triggered worries about the destructive effects of computers, but a year later the high-tech revolution in the financial marketplace is forging ahead relentlessly, especially outside the United States.

Moreover, while US policymakers agonise over "programme trading" and other high-tech investment tools that may have played roles in the crash a year ago on Wednesday, computer advances abroad are raising serious questions about the competitiveness of US financial markets in the 1990s and beyond.

### Investors

Such advances, for example, enable US investors to use a British-owned computerised trading

network called Instinet to buy or sell stocks abroad when domestic markets are closed.

Elsewhere, from the world's oldest stock exchange in Amsterdam to the bourses of Paris, Tokyo and Toronto, exchange officials have replaced order scribblers and floor traders with super-fast electronic display screens that enable investors of all nationalities to buy and sell more cheaply.

"I'm not sure we're doing anything differently, we're just doing it faster," said Robert Reid, executive vice president of Instinet, a subsidiary of Reuters Holdings PLC that can electronically trade stocks in 14 countries. "All we're doing is automating that which we've done before."

Many experts believe securities markets in general, and US markets in particular, are in danger of becoming obsolete because computers have made it so easy to cheaply trade stocks, bonds and other financial items.

### Inevitable

"Technology is inevitable," said Daniel Siegel, a market expert and professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate Business School. "It allows people to communicate and transact very quickly. That means the role of an exchange is more and more vague."

The implications of this change are profound, Siegel and others say. For one thing, it means the post-crash era will be marked by more exotic investing

techniques and a need for an even faster flow of information, rather than a retreat to traditional conservative patterns.

The change also means that the Titan New York Stock Exchange, which still handles most of US stock trading, could face serious threats to its survival as investors find it more efficient and cheaper to trade elsewhere.

### Asset

"The NYSE's greatest asset is its building," said Richard Niehoff, president of the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, one of the first US exchanges to totally automate and bypass the humans who match buyers with sellers.

"Dinosaurs go," Niehoff said. "Over time, I just don't see the

need for (trading) floors. I can see a lot more at a terminal than I can see at a floor post."

Congress, alarmed not only by the market weakness during the crash but by the role computers will play in the future, has ordered a major study into the relationship between technology and the securities industry. Conducted by the office of technology assessment, it is expected to be done by December 1989.

### Innovations

The NYSE, also sensing a threat, is aggressively expanding its own computer capacity to handle enormous volumes, from 250 million shares a day in 1984 to 600 million a day this year and 1 billion daily in the next decade.

The exchange also has tank-

ered with other innovations that it says will enhance the ability of its market makers, known as specialists, to price stocks fairly and trade them efficiently, keys to any stock market's success.

Critics say the NYSE's efforts, in the long run, are a futile attempt to preserve dominance of the specialists in a world they no longer can control. Some liken the exchange's use of computers to an ultra-modern telephone system in which all calls must still be placed through human operators.

Other US financial markets have taken a markedly different approach to the future, acknowledging the inevitability of 24-hour automated trading and the possible exodus of American investment business overseas.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange, for example, plans a joint venture with Reuters for an electronic network, called Globex, allowing all-night trading of currency futures and options and interest-rate futures on Treasury bills.

### Market

"If the Merc closes down at night and allows Tokyo and London to establish markets in its commodities, it might decline faster," said Paul Tattersall, executive vice president for Globex, which intends to start by next summer.

The US securities industry's differing approaches to technology in the post-crash era have alarmed some experts, who say a strong and unified stand is crucial.

## Ford to build new engine plant in Wales

LONDON, Oct 18. (AP): Ford Motor Co. will spend £725 million (\$1.26 billion) to expand its plant at Bridgend, south Wales, to produce high technology engines, the government announced today.

Peter Walker, the British cabinet minister responsible for Wales, said Ford's announcement is the biggest foreign motor industry investment in Britain and would create thousands of jobs in a high unemployment area.

A year later, the US deficits

might go into a free-fall and that, to prop it, US interest rates must rise. High interest rates at best siphon money out of stocks — at worst, they crimp economic activity so hard as to cause a irrational stampede.

Economists throughout 1987 sounded warnings about strains on the global economy, particularly America's huge budget and trade deficits. But share values kept rising.

Then, another set of bad US trade figures on October 14 and a

big shortfall.

### Plant

For pulled out of plans in March to build a £40 million (\$69.6 million) electronics factory in Dundee, Scotland. The company said at the time it would build the plant in Spain instead of having only one unit at the plant.

Walker said that apart from creating or protecting 2,500 jobs at Bridgend and the nearby city of Swansea, about 3,500 people would be employed on constructing and installing the new plant, which is to be located beside the existing factory.

Ford calculated the move would also lead to more than 3,000 jobs in the component supply and other industries, Walker said.

About 60 per cent of Ford's Bridgend production would be exported, improving Britain's balance of payments by as much as £300 million (\$52.2 billion) a year, he said.

## '1987 event a severe correction of an inflated market'

# Strains still beset the global economy, say economists

LONDON, Oct 18. (Reuter): A year on, the stock exchange plunge last October 19 looks more like the bursting of a speculative bubble than a replay of the 1929 Wall Street crash — the herald of the great depression.

Economists, however, say that strains still beset the global economy and that careful management will be needed if the West's longest peacetime expansion is to be kept going.

And voices can still be heard arguing that the parallel with 1929 will turn out right in a hurry.

"The crash was telling us that the economy is turning down. We're heading into something much bigger than a minor recession," says US stock market Seer Robert Prechter.

Many experts, however, now

consider what happened a year ago as more a market than an economic phenomenon.

"We still can't say that there will never be another crash," US Securities and Exchange Commission chairman David Ruder said on American television today.

### Highest

"I don't think it's likely. But we must always remember that when the market goes up to new highs there is always the possibility it will decline and do so in a hurry."

London Stock Exchange chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison calls the 1987 event a "severe correction" of an inflated market.

All the money printed to pay for OPEC oil in the 1970s and accumulated in this decade in the West's pension, insurance and

other investor funds, and in ordinary people's pockets, had to go somewhere. It sloshed into the stock markets.

The great "bull" market in shares around the globe is generally held to have begun in August 1982 when Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average was at 776.92. It peaked in August 1987 at 2,722.42.

### Peak

The Dow is now only about 20 per cent below that peak after being 36 per cent down following its stunning 508-point fall on "Black Monday" October 19.

And it is still higher than it was at the start of last year — nudging 2,150 compared with 1,927.31 on January 2, 1987.

Tracking Wall Street, London's FTSE index of 100 British blue chips is down 24 per cent from a pre-crash high. But, at around 1,860, it is some 180 points above where it began in 1987.

Tokyo, meanwhile, the biggest market, recovered all the losses it made in last year's shake-out and its Nikkei average touched a record 2,423.38 points this August 5.

Some analysts worry about that, however.

"I will sleep peacefully when Japan goes through its version of October 1987," says Gordon Pepper, a British professor in business studies and adviser to brokerage Midland Montagu.

### Bubble

"It would appear to me that Japan has a financial bubble... let's hope they manage their downward valuation in assets levels in a way that doesn't cause

chaos elsewhere."

Many people, meanwhile, particularly small investors, remain wary of share markets in several centres.

In London, the number of daily share deals is down 45 per cent. In New York, mutual funds sales are down by half.

"More than anything else, the individual investor wants to know his money is safe," said Robert Genader, senior executive vice-president at Ambac Indemnity Corporation.

One worry is that there could be an irrational stampede.

Economists throughout 1987 sounded warnings about strains on the global economy, particularly America's huge budget and trade deficits. But share values kept rising.

Then, another set of bad US trade figures on October 14 and a

public row over economic policy between the United States and West Germany, suddenly wakened the markets to the sort of worries that had been nagging the economists.

### Rates

Wall Street feared the dollar might go into a free-fall and that, to prop it, US interest rates must rise. High interest rates at best siphon money out of stocks — at worst, they crimp economic activity so hard as to cause a stampede.

A year later, the US deficits

might not go away.

America's trade this August, the last month for which figures are available, was an unrevived \$12.2 billion in the red — down from the record, a revised 15.6 billion in August, 1987, but still a

big shortfall.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed steady in moderate trading as Monday night's firmer Wall Street close and the stable dollar supported sentiment. The All-Share Swiss index closed 0.8 point higher at 924.13 points.

PARIS: French shares extended gains by mid-session as the market recovered after Monday's one per cent drop, but volumes were thin. The 50-share composite indicator was up 0.37 per cent to 1,106.09.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed moderately higher across the board on continued bargain-hunting and some institutional buying. The Straits Times industrial index rose 13.02 points to 1,106.09.

BOMBAY: Share prices rallied smartly on fresh institutional and investor demand in

moderate trading for the new account. Tata Steel rose 11.25 rupees to 947.5.

SYDNEY: Shares closed firmer but off the day's highs as profit-takers moved in, brokers said. The All-Ordinaries index closed 4.1 points up at 1,571.0.

TOKYO: Prices closed down but slightly above their lows; in dull trade with no factors to pull them up. The Nikkei index lost 126.76 points, 0.46 per cent, to close at 27,141.98.

Typical North Sea Brent crude for December delivery sold as low as \$13.23 a barrel, about 40 cents down from yesterday's US close.

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# Unity in diversity in world of the ancients

The differences between the cultures of Egypt, Asia Minor, the Indus Valley, China and the Americas are among the most intriguing and mysterious objects of all research into the past — but the similarities are even more striking and speak strongly of the common characteristics of mankind.

By George Hill

IT MAY be true that nothing is inevitable except death and taxes. Archaeology tends to suggest that the list is longer. Human history unfolded for scores of generations in several widely-separated centres, with so little contact between them that they might almost have been on separate planets. In these conditions, the first great civilizations flowered, and in some cases faded away again.

The differences between the cultures of Egypt, Asia Minor, the Indus, China and the Americas, and the limited and intermittent contacts that existed between some of them, are among the most intriguing and mysterious objects of all research into the past.

But the similarities are even more striking, and speak strongly of the common characteristics of mankind. Taxes and death (or the urge to cherish the dead), war and subjection, worship and grammar, woven textiles, fired pottery and ball games — they all appear in such widely-separated cultures that it is tempting to suppose that some deep impulse draws men towards them.

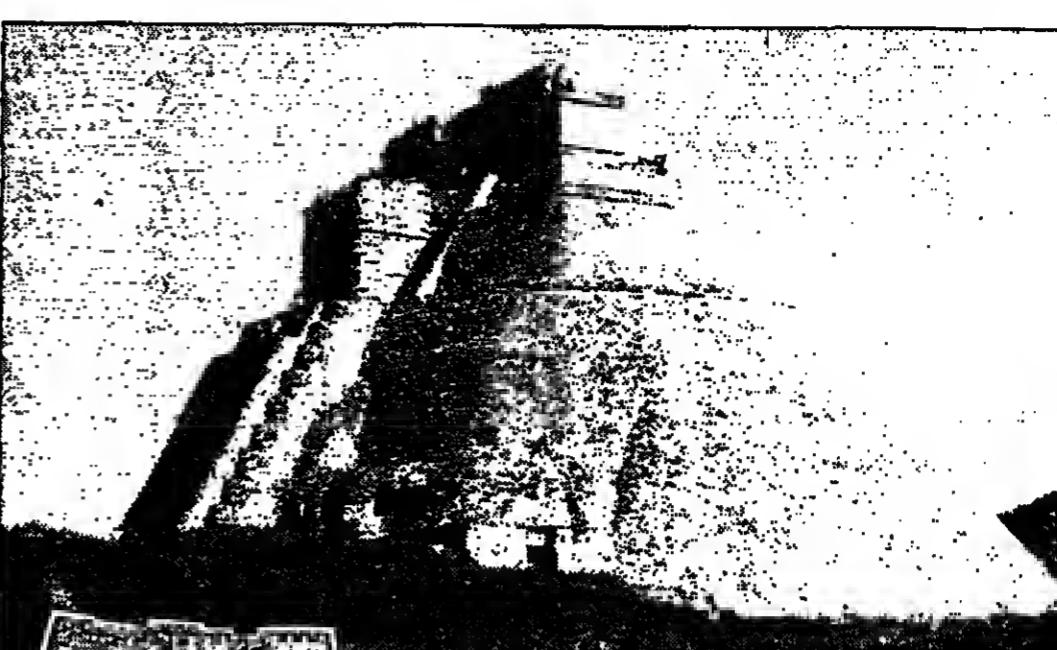
**Forced**

Or it may be that they are forced to them by external circumstances. The case of the pyramid is one of the best-known examples of convergence of this kind. The formula of a huge artificial mountain rationalized to a strictly geometrical form appeared first in Egypt and in Mesopotamia soon after the first real civilizations emerged there. The two cultures took shape separately in the 4th century BC. They were almost 4,000 miles apart, and although trade routes existed between them quite early, the pyramids may well have appeared independently in both.

The first Egyptian pyramid, which was formed in steps and therefore looked more like a ziggurat than the later smooth-sided versions, certainly bears in its internal construction all the marks of those changes in plan which art historians call "pentimenti", and regard as evidence that a painting is original work.

"The similarity ... is partly

coincidental," comments The Times Atlas of Archaeology. "But it nevertheless demonstrates the importance of certain common requirements in the design, function and symbolism of monumental ritual structures ... The tapering pyramid shape reduced the risk of collapse and at the same time enhanced the impression of height and a strong symbolic significance."



been carried out in the four-month period each year when the Nile was in flood and farmers were idle. Its masonry blocks weigh an average of 2.5 tonnes.

"It can be estimated that over the 23 years of Khufu's reign, 1,100 blocks would have been quarried, transported and erected in each working day in order to complete the pyramid in time for Khufu's burial," the Atlas says. After Khufu's time, a series of feeble Nile floods reduced Egypt's prosperity and, therefore, the dominance of its kings. More modest forms of burial became customary, and tomb-robbing had probably rifled all the pyramids within 500 years of Khufu's

death.

The imperatives of a certain form of autocratic society, pre-

occupied with ritual and display, tended to produce uncannily similar results in their build-



ings. The pyramid-form itself was not stamped into man's subconscious, but the tendency

to form societies which found similar solutions to similar problems must have been.

Like separate worlds, the first great civilizations rose and developed with only tenuous contacts between them, even though the appetite for rich and strange objects led them to exchange amber, ivory, gold and silk over immense distances at an early stage. In the fertile valleys of major rivers such as the Nile, the Euphrates, the Indus and the Yellow River, and in the Americas, organised settled societies took shape, and produced superb works of art and architecture which are immensely diverse, yet constantly express the same basic imperatives.

Sometimes it did not happen. Some highly developed civilizations in the Americas never stumbled on the art of writing, and some never discovered the wheel (possibly, though, that implies only that in the high Andes, the wheel may never have looked very useful).

**Ingenuity**

As they applied their ingenuity to the physical world, people repeatedly hit on solutions which were fundamentally the same as those being found thousands of miles away. The first technique of metalworking — using heat to separate the metal from the ore — seems to have been made separately in western Asia and southeastern Europe, and in the Far East. The art of making pottery waterproof by firing it perhaps appeared first in Japan, but it was invented independently in several other centres at later periods. The same is true of weaving fabric, and of many of the basic skills of agriculture.

And the most characteristic invention of civilized man, the art of writing, took shape independently at least three times, and probably more, among peoples in the Near East, China and America. Their ancestors had gone separate ways since the early Stone Age. In some sense, paleolithic men must already have had writing potentially in them, to pass the faculty on to their widely-separated descendants.

As time passed, the primary civilizations reached out under the same impulses which had caused prehistoric man to colonize the habitable world. Their mutual contacts and influences increased — sometimes peacefully, sometimes with great violence. The last high civilization to exist hermetically sealed off from the others was that of the Americas, and the confrontation between it and the first interlopers from the European world, in the 16th century, was so shattering that the cultures which had grown up in isolation for nearly 20,000 years virtually disintegrated in a generation.

The Times Atlas of Archaeology is published by Times Books (£29.50).

## Polish up your psychic powers

**British medium, psychometrist and psychic Lee Lacey believes that many people have psychic powers but need to take the time to develop their gift. Here he explains his strange experiences as a psychic and how he first nurtured his talent for contact with the spirit world.**

By Marina Shammou

HAVE you ever started thinking about a friend and then the phone rings and they are on the line? Have you ever felt a sudden pain or headache — then discovered someone you know or love has fallen ill? Or have you ever had a premonition that something is going to happen — good or bad — and it does?

If you have, you could well be psychic.

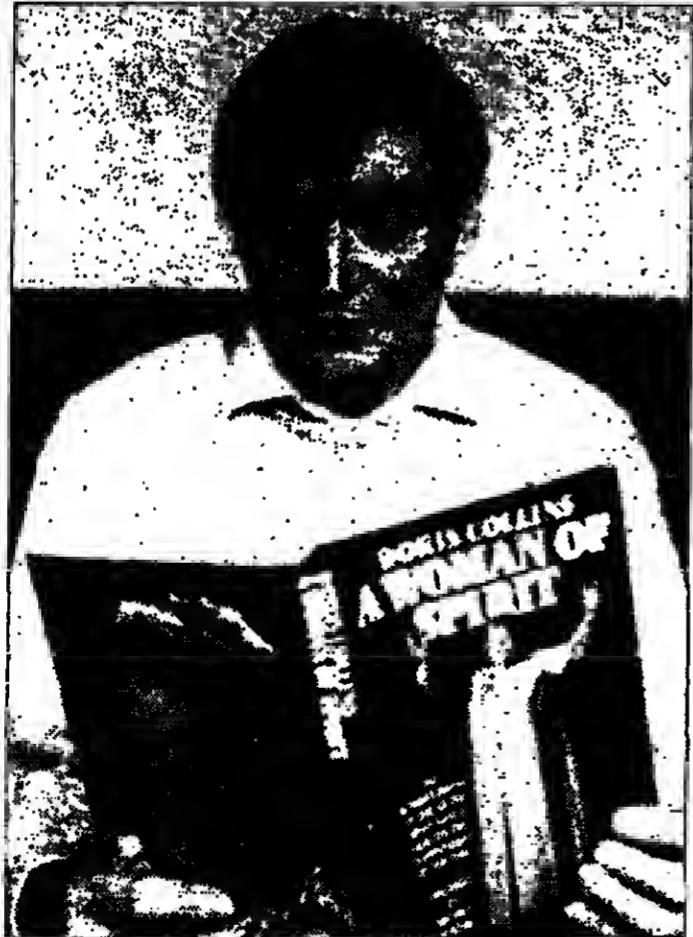
Some people dismiss these feelings as a coincidence, but they could mean you have psychic powers. And if you do, how do you go about developing these powers?

British medium Lee Lacey, 54, says: "Most people are sensitive to vibrations. In primitive times man communicated by thought just as animals do.

"I never called my cats. I always sent out a thought that said, 'Dinner is ready.' Their ears would prick up and they would be on their way. It never failed."

It is possible to develop psychic ability but it takes time. You would need to go to a spiritualist church, or have regular sessions with a psychic or medium to harness your psychic ability. You must first learn to be in tune with the spiritualist world.

Lee, who lives in Nottingham, says: "People come to me



Psychometrist Lee Lacey reads a book by fellow medium Doris Collins.

and say, 'I want to become a psychic medium or healer — do you do a six week course?' That is ludicrous. It took me 13 years of sitting with a medium regularly for about two hours a day."

"But we are in an age of instant everything. People who want a cup of coffee stir in a spoon of instant coffee. If they want real coffee, it takes time."

People come to see Lee if they want to make contact with loved ones on "The Other Side," to seek advice on relationships or find what the future holds for them.

Lee says: "Sometimes people have come to consult me over a particular problem and have walked out screaming and calling my names because they didn't like what they heard. Then they have come back later to say, 'You were absolutely right.'

**Psychometry**

Lee is also trained in psychometry. He maintains that everyone leaves a part of themselves on their personal possessions, such as a ring or a watch. By holding the object in his hands, Lee is able to tell the character of the person.

To find out if you have the potential to become a psychometrist, collect five watches or rings from your friends and see how many of the characters you can interpret correctly. If it is two or more then you could well develop your psy-

chometric ability.

Some people seem to have a sixth sense about people. Their first impressions on meeting people are normally accurate.

Lee says: "People have an atmosphere about them. When you walk into a room, there are people you instantly like because they have a sunny personality and there are others who you feel are cold and distant."

As well as being a psychic, a medium and a psychometrist,

Lee is a spiritual healer too.

He says: "A 19-year-old man came to see me. He had been suffering from serious epilepsy and was taking a number of drugs to relieve his condition.

"He visited me once a week. I transferred the healing power from my hands to his body. After six months, he only took one pill. He went on to university and doesn't have fits anymore."

"Once a couple came to me because they wanted to make

contact with their teenage son who had died in a motorcycle accident. He was able to tell him what happened exactly and also that it was nobody's fault. The love that was flowing between the parents and their son made me cry."

Three days later, the boy appeared beside me in his motorcycle gear and said, "I just wanted to say thanks."

"On another occasion two women came to see me and I said to one, 'Your husband is suffering from a heart condition.' She said, 'He doesn't tell me he is ill, but I've had my suspicions.'

**Nervous**

"She was nervous of telling her husband to go and see the doctor because she was afraid of what his reaction would be. She convinced him to see the doctor who told him that if he had left it for another week he would have died."

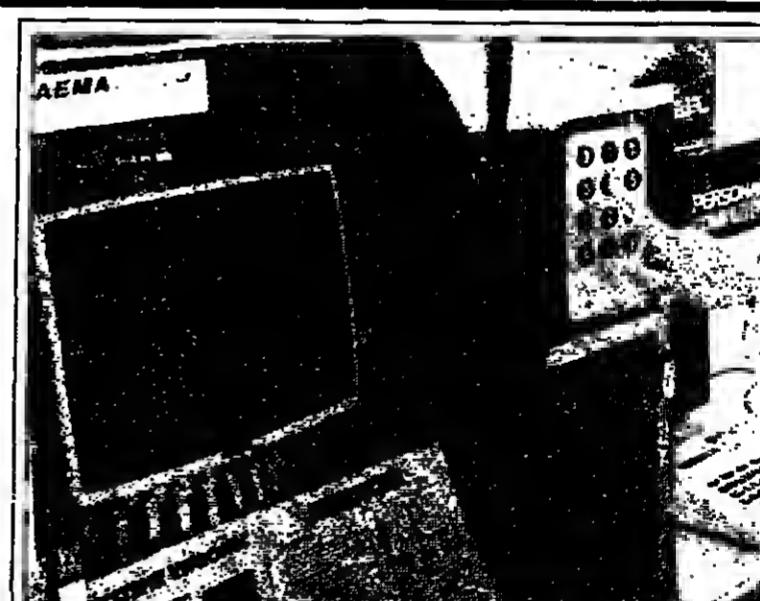
About his forays into the spirit world, Lee says: "It is like switching on a television set in my head. I meditate and say a prayer for help. I then describe the picture that comes through and when it is over, I switch off. If I didn't do that I wouldn't be able to stay sane."

Some people who feel nervous or insecure consult Lee to plan their lives ahead. But Lee stresses that a psychic or medium's role isn't to make decisions for people.

He says: "If a girl came to me and said, 'for example, that there were two men in her life and she didn't know which one to marry. I couldn't tell her which one to choose. I would point out the good and bad qualities of both and leave the decision to her.'

"And I won't allow people to become dependent on my advice. If they call me a few days after they've had a sitting with me, I simply say that I have nothing more to add."

Lee became involved in spiritualism 30 years ago when he went with a few friends to a meeting one day.



Vitronic is a computer keyboard on which one types through an insulated window while remaining outside a shop or reception hall.

## Vitronic: an intelligent shop window

By Frederic Seigneur

FROM now on, it will be unnecessary to go inside a shop or block of offices for information on the products or services offered. Thanks to "Vitronic", invented by a French company, the customer will be able to obtain all the information he wants, day and night, while remaining outside the shop or reception hall of administrative offices.

Vitronic is a computer keyboard with 12, 16, or 48 keys on which one types through a reinforced or insulated window which can be up to 3 centimetres thick.

There is thus no direct contact between the customer and the new instrument. Vitronic detects the approach of a finger and no touch is required.

The user "types" through the window, on the keyboard. Then, depending on the kind of equipment Vitronic is linked up to (television screen, sound

generator, slide projector, video cassette player, Minitel terminal, or videodisc), he obtains the audio-visual presentation of the products or information he is interested in: still pictures, texts or films. In view of its being interactive, and the fact that it is compatible with different existing computer networks, Vitronic can be connected up to any database.

Vitronic has numerous applications. Thus, a city-dweller or tourist can instantly obtain information from a public stand or the window of a tourist information office, about emergency services, administrative and social centres, city transport, details of the city street map, a list and tariffs of hotels and restaurants and the times of opening of various monuments and centres of interest, as well as details about leisure and entertainment offered, for which, thanks to the same installation, he can book his seat.

Vitronic is also aimed at all kinds of commerce and particularly at banks and estate agencies. This piece of equipment can also be used for typing the code for opening an electronic door or for leaving a message in case of absence.

The main interest of Vitronic is obvious: sheltered behind its window, the whole installation is out of reach of adverse weather conditions or possible damage. It can thus also be used in risky, hostile or corrosive environments, for instance, under the sea or in the chemicals industry where man and machine have to be separated by a water- or airtight partition.

The Vitronic Company, operating from Castanet-Tolosan, in the suburbs of Toulouse, the metropolis in the south-west of France, tested its invention for nearly two years, before marketing it in early 1988. Its minimum price is 4,000 francs and it requires no particular installations.

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**SPORTS****Becker outplays Seguso**

TOKYO, Oct. 18. (UPI): Boris Becker, playing his first tournament in six weeks, advanced to the second round of the \$617,500 Japan Indoor Men's Championships with a 6-4, 6-3 win today over American Robert Seguso.

Fourth-seeded Australian Darren Cahill, a US Open semifinalist, continued his disappointing results from the last four weeks when he was upset by Japan's Shuzo Matsukata 7-6 (8-6), 6-1.

Third-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador produced some accurate passing shots to defeat Joey Rive of the United States 6-4, 6-4, and eighth-seeded American Dan Goldie posted a hard fought, three-set victory over Australian John Frawley 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Top seed and defending champion Stefan Edberg opens the defence of his title tomorrow against big-serving American Todd Nelson.

Becker, the tournament's second seed, raced to a 3-1 lead in the first set but suffered a slight lapse in rhythm and allowed Seguso back into the match before taking control once more with overpowering serves.

**Moving**

"I thought I served quite well," said Becker. "In the beginning everything was going quickly and so fast that I had to get used to it."

Becker kept Seguso, who arrived from Florida only 24 hours earlier, on the run by moving from side to side with ground strokes that were hit hard and deep.

The American has a tendency to go for his shots, but Becker just blunted his attack by cutting off the angles with blistering returns.

A 20-year-old West German moved around the court without effort, showing no signs of the foot injuries that forced him to withdraw from the Canadian Open in August and prevented him from playing in the Olympic games three weeks ago.

"Physically I am 100 per cent fit," he said. "That's the best I have moved for seven weeks, and if I can serve like I did, then I don't think the rest of my game will take long to come back."

"It is just a matter of time and playing matches and I should be in good form quickly," he said.

In other results, West German Eric Jelen and Carl-Uwe Steeb reached the second round in straight sets.

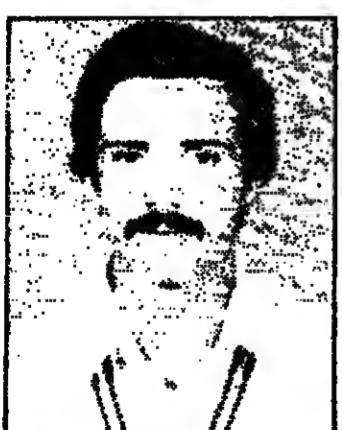
Jelen dismissed Soviet Andrei Othovskiy 6-3, 6-2 and Steeb defeated Australian Mark Woodforde 6-3, 7-5.

**Myers stripped of records for steroid use**

ST LOUIS, Oct. 18. (Reuter): Angel Myers, who was dropped from the US Olympic swimming team after testing positive for steroid use, has been stripped of her American records and barred from competition for 16 months.

The three-member US Swimming Review Board yesterday banned her from domestic and international competition retroactive from August 8 until January, 1990.

Myers was also stripped of her American records and ordered to return the medals won at the Olympic trials in August. The board also ordered her to undergo at least three random drug tests a year until 1993.

**Union edge Bright Stars, Siddiqui blast Morning Star****Capri and YMCA score easy wins**

Shehzad Srivastava



Irfan

CAPRI Cricket Club maintained its winning run with a 53-run victory over Kokan Cricket Club in a Rothmans Royals knockout tournament match in Ahmedabad earlier this week.

In the other matches of the same tournament, Union beat Bright Stars by two wickets, YMCA crushed Al Mulla by 138 runs and Siddiqui defeated Morning Star by five wickets.

An excellent innings of 55 from Adinan, an unbeaten 52 by Raju, 31 by Salim, 35 by Sarfraz and an unbeaten 21 by Naresh saw Capri reach 224 for the loss of seven wickets in 30 overs.

**Support**

For Kokan, Badar Khatu took two wickets for 23 while Aslam also got two and Ibraheem Qasim one each.

Zakaria and Ibrahim scored 29 before Irfan sent both of them back to the pavilion. Irfan took six wickets for 25 runs in only six overs as Kokan were all out for 171. Irfan got some good support from Sarfraz who took two wickets for 16. Javed was the top Kokan scorer with 40.

At the Oval, Bright Stars met an early setback when Aslam was bowled by Kafaid. Two more quick wickets by Kafaid put Union firmly in the saddle. Sheh-

**ENGLAND SET OUT TO RESTORE PRIDE****West Germans seek revenge against Dutch**

Gullit to miss the match

MUNICH, West Germany, Oct. 18. (Reuter): Only West German coach Franz Beckenbauer, a man used to standing alone against the tide, does not regard tomorrow's key World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands as a grudge match.

"We harbour no feelings of hatred or desire for revenge," Beckenbauer said as his team prepared for the game, less than three months after they were beaten on home soil in the European Championship semi-finals by the Dutch.

That match in Hamburg finally allowed the Netherlands to exorcise their 1974 World Cup final loss to West Germany. Despite Beckenbauer's words, now it is the West Germans' turn to try to avenge an historic defeat.

New Dutch coach Thuis Libregts recognised the hothouse atmosphere surrounding the European Group Four clash in Munich's Olympic stadium — scene of both West Germany's 1974 World Cup final triumph and the Netherlands' European Championship final win over the Soviet Union in June.

"The Germans are out for revenge," Libregts said. "With only one team sure of going through from the qualifying group to the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, the match has also been billed as a do-or-die affair with Beckenbauer's job in particular on the line."

The Dutch will be without captain and star Ruud Gullit, still not fit after an ankle injury, but otherwise will field most of the team which played so brilliantly in winning the European Championship.

The Netherlands struggled in defeating Wales 1-0 in their first

World Cup qualifier last month. But Libregts insisted key striker Marco van Basten — clubmate of Gullit and defender Frank Rijkaard at Italian League leaders AC Milan — "is in much better condition than against Wales."

A key factor in tomorrow's match will be Van Basten's renewed duel with West German stopper Juergen Kohler, who did everything to smother the Dutchman in their Hamburg encounter until Van Basten popped up to score the winner with only a minute left to play.

Newcomer Thomas Haessler, who shone in West Germany's 4-0 win over Finland in their first World Cup qualifier six weeks ago, has the task of combining with captain Lothar Matthaeus and Olaf Thon to create a midfield that can overturn the Dutch.

In London, England will be keen to banish the memory of their dismal performance at the European Soccer Championship finals when they meet Sweden tomorrow.

They lost all three matches in West Germany after arriving among the favourites, and last month's 1-0 victory over Denmark at Wembley in a friendly did little more than stop the rot.

Only a convincing victory over Sweden in the European Group Two tie will satisfy England's disillusioned supporters.

However, that is unlikely to be achieved easily as England have not beaten the Swedes for 20 years. Sweden proved their calibre at international level earlier this year by winning a four-nation tournament involving West Germany, Argentina and the Soviet Union.

With such players as Glenn Hysen and Peter Larsson in defence, Glenn Strömberg and Robert Prytz in midfield and Hans Holmqvist in attack, they can boast an array of stars to match any team in Europe.

In Swanscombe, Wales, Everton defender Kevin Ratcliffe will be determined to resurrect his nation's World Cup hopes tomorrow when he returns from a nine-month injury-enforced absence to lead Wales against Finland.

Ratcliffe has played only two senior matches since recovering from a hernia problem but will relieve Liverpool striker Ian Rush of the captaincy when

Rush of the Manchester United marks

ager Terry Yorath names his side for Wales' second Group Four tie.

The Welsh, beaten 1-0 by

European champions the Netherlands in their opening encounter in the four-team group last month, are sure to be boosted by the return of Ratcliffe, capped 43 times, and his club colleague Pat van den Hauwe at the heart of the defence.

As well as recalling the two key

defenders, Yorath is expected to

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by making two changes in mid-

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Carter out

LONDON, Oct 18. (Reuter): English Football League president Philip Carter, the chairman of Everton, was voted out of office today after a row over his role in moves to set up a breakaway "Super League." Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein also lost his place on the League management committee.

## WBA convention

PORLAMAR, Venezuela, Oct 18. (Reuter): The World Boxing Association opened its annual convention yesterday with WBA president Gilberto Mendoza of Venezuela struggling to retain office despite a strong challenge from Luis Batista Salas of Puerto Rico.

## NFL game

NEW YORK, Oct 18. (Reuter): Result of National Football League (NFL) game played yesterday:

Buffalo Bills 37 New York Jets 14

## IOC member

LONDON, Oct 18. (Reuter): International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission member Arnold Beckett said yesterday that he understood the "frustration and anger" felt by British sprinter Linford Christie over his drugs at the Seoul Olympics.

## World bridge

VENICE, Italy, Oct 18. (Reuter): Greece, Austria, the United States and Sweden have qualified for the World Bridge Olympiad quarterfinals which begin tomorrow.

## Joyner-Kersee

NEW YORK, Oct 18. (AP): Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who won two gold medals at the Summer Olympics, was named Amateur Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

## Paris-Dakar

PARIS, Oct 18. (Reuter): The organisers of the 1988 Paris-Dakar rally are thinking of rerouting the race to avoid Algeria because of the recent unrest there, the French sports newspaper L'Equipe said today.

## Fans arrested

MILAN, Italy, Oct 18. (AP): Police announced today the arrest of two Major League soccer fans in connection with Oct 9 riots at Ascoli in which a supporter of rival team was fatally beaten.

## Michael Fay

FREMANTLE, Australia, Oct 18. (Reuter): New Zealand's Michael Fay has entered a crew for December's inaugural World Match-racing Championships which will feature many of sailing's most illustrious skippers.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (3rd week) played at the Hilton Hotel on Monday:

- N/S:
- 1. Sapre & Gajjar
- 2. Sheria and Ezchidha
- 3. Dr. Mehta & Tiab
- E/W
- 1. Mrs Sapre & Imam
- 2. Aurora & Jaggi
- 3. Capt Salman Ali & Simon

## WASIM SINKS PRE-TOURNAMENT FAVOURITES

## Pakistan crush W. Indies



Dujon about to sweep the ball off as Mudassar misses the line of the ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

SHARJAH, Oct 18. (Reuter): An inspired innings by skipper Javed Miandad and hostile pace bowling by Wasim Akram helped Pakistan crush the West Indies by 84 runs in the Sharjah Champions Trophy today.

Set the daunting task of bettering Pakistan's 294 for six wickets, the West Indies managed only 210 for five in their allotted 50 overs despite an unbeaten 102 by opener Gordon Greenidge.

It was the second straight defeat for the pre-tournament favourites, who last Sunday were beaten by India by 23 runs.

Pakistan owed most of their competition record total in openers Mudassar Nazar and Rameez Raja, who put on 113 runs in quick time. Each scored 64 and each was dismissed by a Jeff Dujon stumping.

After their departure, Miandad proved himself the master, tearing into the West Indies pace attack to hammer 79 off 68 deliveries, including three sixes and three fours.

His third wicket alliance with Salm Malik realised 99 runs in just over 11 overs.

Miandad was particularly tough on Patrick Patterson, who hit for 19 runs in an over, including two sixes and a four off successive deliveries. The fast bowler conceded 72 runs in his eight overs.

A total of 300 looked likely until the dismissal of Miandad — caught by Carl Hanmer off paceman Courtney Walsh — and Salm Malik checked the Pakistani gallop. But Pakistan still recorded the highest score for Sharjah 50-over international matches.

A hostile spell of bowling by fit-again Wasim Akram effectively prevented the West Indies from making a match of it.

Wasim, who was later named Man of the Match, dismissed Desmond Haynes, Richie

Richardson and Hinoper in his first six overs to reduce the West Indies to 24 for three.

Greenidge stood firm, but the task was beyond the West Indies who once again badly missed injured skipper Viv Richards.

Later the West Indies, who still have a chance of making the final, opted for batting practice with Greenidge completing his century in the last over of the day, which was bowled by Miandad.

Pakistan play India tomorrow with the winner going on to the final on Saturday. The losers

## Olympic events may be cut

TOKYO, Oct 18. (Reuter): International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said today some events might be cut at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

"The programme in the Summer Games is very, very solid today but we have to think, for example, about deleting the demonstration sports and maybe (taking) some other steps," he told

reporters.

Samaranch said the IOC can accept new events for the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, but he did not specify which events would be eliminated or added.

The Seoul Olympics, which ended early this month, had 237 events for 23 sports, plus several sport demonstrations.

Samaranch arrived in Tokyo yesterday on his way to Seoul for the 1988

Paralympic Games which began last Saturday. He met Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today and signed a well-wisher's book for the recovery of ailing Emperor Hirohito.

He said a general IOC meeting to be held in Tokyo in 1990 would decide the site for the 1996 Summer Games, which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Olympics.

## Senior and Mackay to play for Australia in World Cup

MELBOURNE, Oct 18. (Reuter): Australia will be represented by Peter Senior and Roger Mackay in December's Golfing World Cup after organisers failed to attract world number Greg Norman.

Norman stated in August he wanted to represent his country in their bi-centennial year but organisers said yesterday the former British Open champion was unavailable.

## Missing

England's Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Spain's Severiano Ballesteros are also missing from the field, promoter Tony Rosenthal said in a news conference.

England's team consists of Mark James and Barry Lane while West Germany will be represented by little-known Carin Knauss and Wolfgang Merit.

## North Koreans honour Cubans

HAVANA, Oct 18. (Reuter): The North Korean government has honoured 173 Cuban athletes in a move seen by diplomats as a gesture of gratitude for Cuba's boycott of the Seoul Olympics.

The official newspaper Granma said today that the awards were presented to a visiting Cuban delegation by Foreign Minister Kim Yang-Nam during a ceremony in Pyongyang.

## Received

The delegation, led by a Cuban Communist Party official, received the medals for the 173 athletes who had been similarly honoured in Cuba last month by President Fidel Castro.

"We are proud to have such brothers who remain faithful to the principles of the revolution and adhere to our cause for the reunification of our country because Korea is only one," Granma quoted Kim as saying.

## I am here to win: Abdullah Omar

By Gail Seery

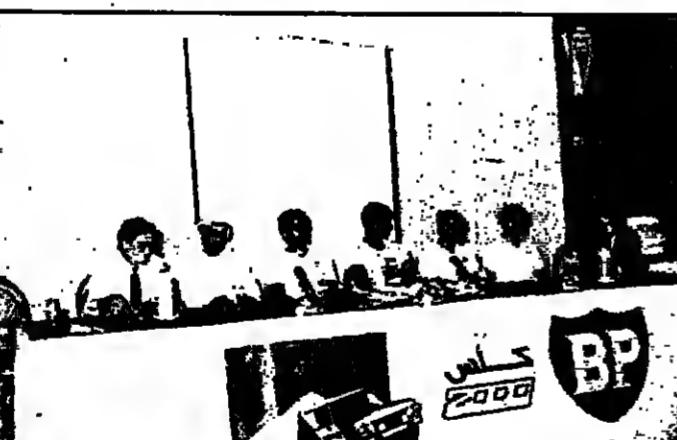
EVERY competitor in Friday's Al Ghanim/BP 2000 Jeep Rally agrees that one of the strongest competitors in the event will be Dubai's Abdullah Omar. He will be driving the long wheel base version of the Mitsubishi Montero, which Abba Al Minauski piloted into first place in the Bahrain round of this year's Marlboro Desert Challenge.

This is a significantly more powerful vehicle than the two Mitsubishi Pajeros which competed in last year's Challenge, and was originally designed as a "rapid assistance" vehicle for rally marathons like the Paris-Dakar rally. The 2.6 litre engine is turbo charged with a maximum power of 250ps. and a top speed of 200 kph. The wheel suspension, transmission and braking systems have been modified and adapted for the gruelling conditions likely to be met on such events.

**Dropping**

In the Dubai round of this year's Challenge, Abdullah Omar took the car into a disappointing fourth place after dropping eight minutes because of a puncture. "I was leading before the puncture," he explained.

"This coming year will be my tenth time to do the Masafi Rally. I've come first twice, second once and a few times I was in the top ten." Masafi is generally considered to be a tougher standard than the fled-



The Marlboro team at the press conference.

powered cars are less likely to have problems from over-heating. I was practising today, and it was very hot. This is a problem for the high powered cars."

"I am 100 per cent here to win." He has Mubarak Al Hajri, cousin to Saeed Al Hajri as his co-driver, and this is their third time out together. They have done a local rally together and also finished fifth in the Masafi.

Al Hajri is becoming one of the Middle East's most experienced co-drivers, having partnered Abba Al Mousawi, Saeed Al Hajri, Hamad Al Mazzrou and many others.

"Mine is a very good car," said Omar. "It is very well prepared. The Mitsubishi people are working very hard on keeping these

cars in the best condition."

"I will take it fairly easy on the first stage. I always do this. When a person is nervous he is liable to make mistakes. I will drive fast, but steadily. All the same, I'm not prepared to drop a second to anyone, and intend to take the lead from the first stage."

A further feature of this year's Challenge is the Manufacturers' Championship. This is currently led by Mitsubishi Ralliart, followed by Range Rover/Zayani, Nissan and Toyota.

Novice driver Hossam Sayafe and co-driver Amjad Qutainah had a piece of good news yesterday when Pepsi agreed to sponsor their Suzuki jeep, but also his 24ft Tigercat, which he will be racing in next week's third Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat Race.

**Successful**

Sayafe is driving a standard jeep but is a determined driver and could have a very successful future ahead of him. He and Qutainah are ready for the rally and have been practising hard for the event.

The Marlboro team — Tareq Al Wazan, co-driver Khaled Khalifa, Eid Fahal, co-driver Sadeq Ashkanani and team manager Tariq Samia participated in a press conference at the Meridian Hotel yesterday. Both drivers are figured to be among the potential front runners.

The rally will start at 9 am on Friday, from outside the Masaib Beach Hotel.

meet the West Indies in a match to decide the second finalists on Friday.

## Scoreboard

PAKISTAN	
M. Nazar c Dujon b Hooper	64
R. Raja st Dujon b Harper	64
J. Miandad c Hooper b Walsh	79
S. Malik c Dujon b Patterson	42
E. Almati c Bishop b Ambrose	16
M. Elahi c Bishop b Ambrose	12
W. Akram not out	2
S. Younis not out	0
Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-3, nb-2)	15
Total (six wickets - 50 overs)	294
Fall of wickets: 1-113 2-153 3-252	
4-278 5-281 6-294	

Did not bat: S. Mohammed, A. Qadir, T. Ahmed.

Bowling: Patterson 8-6-72-1, Ambrose 9-3-41-2, Walsh 7-0-36-1, Bishop 6-0-47-6, Harper 10-0-40-1, Hooper 10-0-45-1.

## WEST INDIES

G. Greenidge not out	102
D. Haynes c and b Akram	1
R. Richardson c Masedad b Akram	6
C. Hooper c Yusuf b Akram	0
A. Lopez run out	12
J. Dujon c Akram b Masedad	37
R. Harper not out	22
Extras (b-1, lb-17, w-2, nb-10)	30
Total (five wickets - 50 overs)	210
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-24, 3-24, 4-54, 5-146	

Did not bat: C. Ambrose, P. Patterson, C. Walsh, I. Bishop.

Bowling: Wasim 9-3-37-3, Elahi 10-0-46-4, Tamerlan Ahmed 10-0-31-4, Masedad 10-0-49-1, Qadir 10-0-35-1.

Result: Pakistan won by 84 runs.

Next match: Pakistan v. India October 19.

Tyson ready to knock out Bruno in two weeks

CARACAS, Oct 18. (Reuter): Mike Tyson popped up in Venezuela yesterday and said nothing would get in the way of his knocking out British challenger Frank Bruno in two weeks.

"In two weeks I'll be ready and I'll knock Bruno out," the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion told reporters at Simon Bolivar international airport.

Asked if his much-publicised divorce from actress Robin Givens would affect his boxing performance, Tyson answered: "I feel great. I don't have no problems, just my hand hurts."

Tyson, his right hand in a cast, arrived shortly before midnight (0400 GMT) with promoter Don King en route to a meeting of the World Boxing Association (WBA) on the Venezuelan resort island of Margarita.

Tyson fractured his hand in a street brawl with boxer Mitch Green in Harlem two months ago and injured it again while working out on a heavyweight bag at King's farm near Cleveland.

Tyson said the injury would not prevent him from fighting Bruno, who arrived in New York yesterday with his manager and British boxing promoters to settle a date and venue for the fight, which has now been postponed three times.

Neither King nor Tyson indicated whether they had met Bruno or his manager before coming to Venezuela, or if details of the fight had been settled.

Tyson, who wore a blue running suit, spoke little to reporters. The flamboyant King dominated the impromptu news conference, often interrupting phrases in Spanish.

Pakistan's Board of Cricket Control (BCCI) secretary Arif Abbasi told Reuters today: "We have invited India to tour Pakistan early next year and I am hopeful the tour will come off."

"Mucho dinero, no problema (lots of money, no problem)," King improvised when asked

about the Tyson-Bruno tilt.

A contract has been signed for a Tyson title defence against Bruno, the Briton who is ranked No 1 by both the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association. But Tyson has told manager Bill Clayton he wants the fight in the United States.

"I would love if Mike Tyson were here right now, we could talk. It's been dangling for a</